

# BARRE GAZETTE

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## Selectmen discuss Quork Walker marker restoration

By Ellenor Downer  
Staff Writer

BARRE – Town administrator, Jessica Sizur, said Phil Hubbard inquired about the Quork Walker marker, which was located on the Broad Street side of North Park.

She said it was damaged in a car accident, which occurred during the Barre Common project. The town stored it in the old police office in the Henry Woods Building. She said the company, which made the marker, was no longer in business. She said the marker was sizable, 3' by 4' tall and impressive.

Quork Walker of Barre was a slave, who sued for his freedom in 1781. He worked on a farm in Barre as a slave. He won his case and became a free farmer.

The Barre Historical Commission and Common Oversight Committee planned to place a new marker on the Broad Street side of North Park, but farther from the road. They planned to use one of the granite blocks currently located on Exchange Street for the marker. Sizur said the project would be completed by summer.

The town administrator asked the board about what to do with the existing marker. She said it could be given to the Barre Historical Society. Selectman Matthew Urban said the town should look into the rules as the historical society was a private organization and the marker was owned by the town. She also asked about restoration of the original.

### COVID-19 update

Town administrator Sizur said there was a lot of development at the state level with vaccine distribution. She said the state process "was less than reliable" and getting the vaccine was difficult. She said town offices received a lot of emails and phone calls about getting vaccinated. She said the state set online registration only. It proved difficult for the elderly to use so the state will have a phone registration as well.

She said the town placed an order for vaccine last week and was waiting for confirmation. She said, "There was large demand and smaller supply [of the vaccine.]" She said the Moderna vaccine did not require as cold temperature as the Pfizer vaccine and could be stored in town. Rutland has the type of freezer to store the Pfizer vaccine.

Sizur said the town currently had 16 active cases. Some of the cases were multiple family members. She said the board of health would probably use Quabbin Regional High School for a drive through site to handle larger groups later in the vaccine distribution. Selectman Urban said weather was an issue for drive through. He discussed possibly reaching people unable to get out to a clinic due to lack of transportation or disabilities by using the town's ambulance service to reach them. Selectman Greg O'Sullivan said patients needed to be monitored.

See BARRE, page 5



## February starts off with snowstorm

Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

The month of February opened with a major snowstorm, which dumped over a foot of snow.

## Hardwick COVID-19 vaccinations set for Feb. 13

Registration is necessary, details available soon

HARDWICK – Massachusetts is currently in Phase 2, Step 1, of COVID-19 vaccinations and supplies are limited.

Those who are 75 or older, are eligible for a vaccine that will be given on Feb. 13, at the Hardwick Elementary School. Details and registration information will be available as soon as possible.

Below is a list of current sites where you can make an appointment to receive a vaccine for those over 75. Click on the links to get all the current information available and if possible to schedule your appointment online. Those receiving vaccinations will also need to fill out and bring a state form with them to their appointment, which can be found at <https://www.town-of-hardwick.com/PDF/COVID-19VaccinationAttestationForm.pdf>. The form is valid for anyone over the age of 75 in Phase 2. Other forms may be available for those younger at a later date.

Due to high demand and constrained vaccine supply, COVID-19 vaccination appointments are limited. More appointments will be available based on supply from the federal government. Appointments will be added on a rolling basis. In case of closures due to winter

weather, vaccination locations will reach out to individuals with appointments to reschedule. Those who cannot safely get to their appointment, can reschedule. Reach out to the location where receiving the vaccination with specific questions.

Places to get vaccinated for those 75 and older:  
Eastfield Mall, Springfield (currently all slots are filled)

Gardner: Medical Arts Building, 250 Green St, Suite 200, Gardner, MA 01440

Appointments available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Phone for appointment (978) 669-0199

Gardner Walgreens, 232 Main St, Gardner.

Holden Walgreens, 1145 Main St, Holden.

Holyoke: Baystate Health, 361 Whitney Ave. in Holyoke.

Leominster: Hannaford, 118 Lancaster St., Leominster, phone for appointment (978) 840-2737

Rutland Free Public Library, 280 Main Street, Rutland (Appointments not yet available)

Southbridge Community Center/Harrington Hospital, 153 Chestnut St, Southbridge, appointments available Monday through Friday.

Worcester: Central Mass Allergy and Asthma Care, 425

See VACCINATIONS page 6

## Rail plan advocates plan next steps

Believe ridership is underestimated

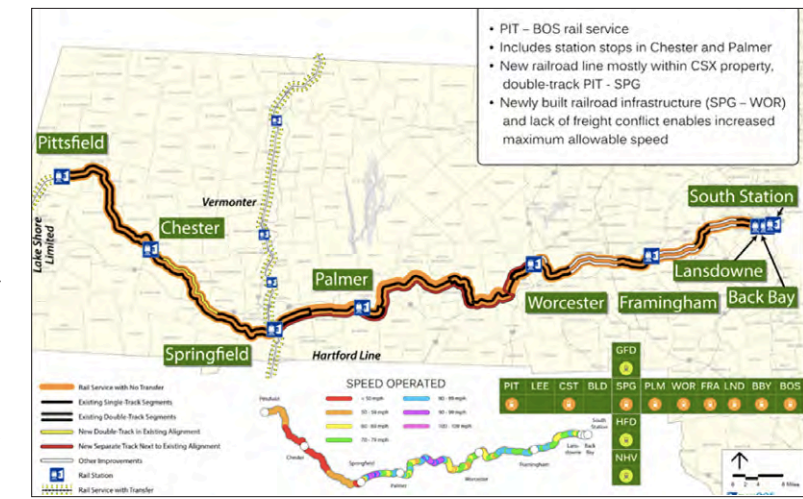
By Michael Harrison  
mharrison@turley.com

PALMER — Now that they've had a chance to digest MassDOT's extensive feasibility study of a proposed passenger rail link connecting Pittsfield to Boston, including stops in Palmer and Springfield, the Rail Stop Steering Committee is planning its next course.

The town-appointed committee met recently to discuss the study and set priorities, including how to prod state and federal officials not already on-board to start acting on the project. One major issue on which all those in the meeting seem to agree is the study vastly underestimates the number of riders it would attract – a critical component of the cost benefit analysis that determines if a project is eligible for federal funding.

That's a complaint committee members and others made after a draft study – the report's predecessor – was released a few months prior. They made those feelings known and MassDOT appears to have acknowledged it in the final report, which concludes that further study is justified.

Wary of the slow pace of government and a historic reluctance to invest in large scale infrastructure programs, committee members want to seize any momentum



Graphic/MassDOT

The map shows stops along the way, including a Palmer depot, of a proposed passenger line from Pittsfield to Boston.

created by the MassDOT study.

"We have to keep pushing it forward so it's on their radar," committee Chair Ben Hood said.

"Sometimes they have money and you have to ask for it. I always hoped they would want to invest in [transportation infrastructure]."

According to the report, "the study has entailed a comprehensive civic engagement process involving residents, the study's Advisory Committee – a group comprised of individuals representing diverse perspectives from Pittsfield to Boston, and other stakeholders in a series of meetings and through online interaction. This included cooperative development of the following goals for the project:

Provide better transporta-

ber that has changed in this breakdown, is the number of students being homeschooled, which is 30 more than last year. He said most of those students being homeschooled is due to the pandemic and that he is hopeful they will return to school in the future.

Chapter 70 Aid funding did not increase from last year to this year. Lind said the Student Opportunity Act will help. The approved town budgets for North Brookfield over the last eight years averaged an increase of 1.2% a year, even though the average rate of inflation is 2%.

Lind said the district also saw a drop in state and federal entitlement.

See NORTH BROOKFIELD, page 5

## Barre Food Pantry to hold distributions Feb.10 and 18

BARRE – The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur Wednesday, Feb.10, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursday, Feb.18 from 5:30-7 p.m. People should note the Wednesday morning distributions in 2021 are ending a half hour earlier than they have in the past, at 11:30 a.m.

The Barre Food Pantry schedules their two distributions each month on the morning of the second Wednesday and the evening of the third Thursday. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morn-

ing on Wednesday, Feb. 10 or in the evening Thursday, Feb.18, whichever is the more convenient for them.

The Barre Food Pantry volunteers strive to continue to fulfill their mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the catastrophic spread of the novel COVID-19 virus to which no one has immunity. Many clients and volunteers

See FOOD PANTRY, page 5

BARRE GAZETTE

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# News of the Towns



## Round Town

Ellenor Downer  
413-967-3505

### Food pantry to hold distribution

The next two Barre Food Pantry distributions will occur Wednesday, Feb.10, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursday, Feb.18 from 5:30-7 p.m. People should note the Wednesday morning distributions in 2021 are ending a half hour earlier than they have in the past, at 11:30 a.m. Clients are invited to pick up groceries from the food pantry either in the morning on Wednesday, Feb. 10 or in the evening Thursday, Feb.18, whichever is the more convenient for them. As they have since last spring's distributions, in order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients, Feb. 10 and 18 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church. They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their groceries will be put into the trunk or way back of their vehicle by volunteers.

#### Barre COVID-19 vaccine update

The Board of Health and Barre Emergency Services are working with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to get approval to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. Following State approval, Barre residents, who qualify under Phase 1 or are 75+ years of age will be eligible to be scheduled to receive the vaccine at a clinic. Those qualified for Phase 1 or Phase 2, step 1 (75+ years of age) may email the boardofhealth@townofbarre.com to be put on a list to get an email with a link to register for the clinic when one becomes available. Anyone, who registers and does not qualify, will be deleted from the registration list. Qualified recipients should check back at the link frequently for available appointments.

### Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of Feb. 8.

Meal sites are closed and there are only Meals on Wheels deliveries.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Teriyaki beef, steamed rice, broccoli, pineapple, fortune cookie, whole wheat bread

TUES. – Marinated pork loin, herbed potatoes, honey glazed carrots, yogurt, marble rye bread

WED. – Chicken Milano, vegetable couscous, spinach, peaches, pumpernickel bread

THURS. – Salisbury steak with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, corn, fresh fruit, sandwich roll

FRI. – Valentine's Day meal

Lasagna with meatballs, green beans, chocolate mousse, French bread

\*Diabetic friendly dessert

\*\*Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

### Cub Scouts join year-long hiking challenge



Webelo Quinn Ouimette and Tiger Cub Penny Ouimette navigate a balance beam during a recent January hike.

By Paula Ouimette  
Staff Writer

WARE — On Jan. 1, 2021, the Heart of New England Council launched a Cub Scout Hiking Club. Cub Scouts were encouraged to "kick off" the New Year by exploring the outside world. Several members of Ware Family Pack 520 have joined the challenge and have been enjoying weekly hikes with their families on local trails. Cub Scout families are encouraged to take photos during their hikes and share them on social media with the hashtag #hnehikingclub2021. Parents then complete a simple form online to log the numbers of miles each of their Scouts hikes.

According to Kevin Fuller, member of the Cub Scout Experience Team for Heart of New England Council, 191 Cub Scouts have registered for this challenge and already logged 249 individual hikes for a total of 550 miles in January. Two Cub Scouts from Pack 193 in Winchendon, tied for most miles hiked at 60 miles.

Ware Family Pack 520 participates in one monthly pack hike a month, weather permitting, but encourages all Scouts to explore the outdoors around them each week. During their weekly Zoom den meetings, the Scouts share their adventures with each other. Pack 520 has hiked the following locations for the January Hiking Club challenge: Church Street Rail Trail, Ware; Pynchon's Grist Mill Preserve, West Brookfield; the fire tower off Ragged Hill Road, West Brookfield; Gilbertville Fitness Trail, Gilbertville; the Bugle, Gilbertville; and the Mermaid Pool Trail at Cutthroat Brook Tree Farm,



Tiger Cub Regan Murphy climbs a large rock to observe lichen.



Tiger Cub Makayla Boos was eager to explore the Church Street trail after a dusting of snow.

Athol.

The month of February brings about the added challenge of a Winter Scavenger Hunt for Scouts to complete during their hikes, as well as a Massachusetts State Park Challenge. More information about February's hiking challenges can be found

at hnebsa.org under "Cub Scout Hiking Club." Parents can register their Cub Scout for the hiking club at any time during the year at no cost. For more information about Ware Family Pack 520, people may contact Cubmaster Chris Boos at 413-345-0448 or lotecred-neck3.3@gmail.com.

## Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com



### BOH gives COVID-19 update

The Hubbardston Board of Health continues to work through its vaccination plan with the intent to begin delivering shots in the coming month. More information will be sent to residents on the town's online platforms and through the reverse-911 (CODE RED) system to make sure residents are informed about their opportunities. Hubbardston is a "yellow" community according to the Jan. 28 MA DPH COVID-19 report. This means Hubbardston has less than or equal to 25 active cases, but more than 15.

The current number of active cases in town is 21, a decrease from the last report of 25. It is important to note that towns bordering Hubbardston, to include Barre, Rutland, Gardner, Westminster and Templeton continue to be in a red status, but all are reporting lower case numbers in this week's report. Neighboring Princeton is now in a yellow status, up from green, after seeing an increase in cases.

Hubbardston has seen 112 cases since the start of the pandemic. More than 438 residents have been tested in the last 14 days with 22 of those residents reporting positive results. This is a decrease in the town's positivity level. Residents are reminded to wear masks in public, keep social distancing, consistently and effectively wash hands, and limit gatherings to state recommendations.

#### Senior center

The Hubbardston Senior Center will be closed until April. At that point, the Council on Aging will review how things are going with the virus and plan accordingly. A council member will be checking the phone lines two or three times a week. The director, Claudia Provencal will be checking emails and Facebook every day. The drive through food and egg will still be in place on Thursday mornings. Masks will be in place properly and distancing will be followed.

### Barre COVID-19 vaccine update

BARRE – The Board of Health and Barre Emergency Services are working with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to get approval to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

Following State approval, Barre residents, who qualify under Phase 1 or are 75+ years of age will be eligible to be scheduled to receive the vaccine at a clinic. Those qualified for Phase 1 or Phase 2, step 1 (75+ years of age) may email the boardofhealth@townofbarre.com to be put on a list to get an email with a link to register for the clinic when one becomes available. Anyone, who registers and does not qualify, will be deleted from the registration list. Qualified recipients should check back at the link frequently for available appointments.

### Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

Given the current surge in COVID cases in the state, and with an abundance of caution for the health and safety of the cast and crew, Theatre at the Mount's live stream production of "Winter Wonderettes" is cancelled.

The Three County Fair, Northampton, closed its office for the winter season and instituted staff cuts and furloughs to help the 202-year-old organization survive the extended shutdown of the fairgrounds due to the COVID-19 health crisis. The cuts will affect each staff member, and includes a fourteen percent salary reduction for senior management and staggered furloughs for all employees. Furloughs could be extended if the fairgrounds are unable to host postponed 2020 events in the spring, which include over a dozen different horse shows from April through October, plus a variety of concerts and festivals. The Three County Fair entered 2020 on solid ground after completing 2019 as its most successful year since horse racing ended at the fairgrounds in 2005, thanks to a widely attended Labor Day weekend fair, and another full slate of horse shows and festivals. But with reoccurring operational expenses and more than one million dollars in lost 2020 event revenue, the fair will run out of reserves sooner rather than later. The fair received a Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Loan in mid-May, which has since been exhausted and forgiven by its lender and the SBA. For more information, people may visit www.3countyyfair.com.

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# News of the Towns

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

*Note: Many meetings are closed to the public or will be held remotely.*

### BARRE

Barre Housing Authority – Feb. 4 at 3 p.m.  
Finance Committee – Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
Board of Health – Feb. 8 at 5 p.m.  
Water Commission – Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
DPW Commission – Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.  
Conservation Committee – Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.  
Cable Advisory Committee – Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.  
Library Trustees – Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.  
Board of Selectmen – Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m.  
Planning Board – Feb. 16 and March 2 at 7 p.m.  
Sewer Commission – Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.  
Cemetery Commission – Feb. 25 at 11 a.m.  
Historical Commission – March 1 at 7 p.m.

### HARDWICK

Board of Health – Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
Paige Library Trustees – Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.  
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – Feb. 8 at 6 p.m.  
Board of Selectmen – Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
Wheelwright Water District – Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.  
Planning Board – Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
Recycling Commission – Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m.  
Council on Aging – Feb. 11 at 9:30 a.m.  
Gilbertville Public Library – Feb. 12 at 4 p.m.  
Finance Committee – Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m.  
Gilbertville Water District – Feb. 16 at 5:30 p.m.  
Conservation Commission – Feb. 16 at 6:30 p.m.

### HUBBARDSTON

Planning Board – Feb. 4 and Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m.  
Cultural Council – Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.  
Library Trustees – Feb. 4 at 7 p.m.  
Historic Commission – Feb. 6 at 10 a.m.  
Board of Health – Feb. 9 and Feb. 23 at 6:30 p.m.  
Council on Aging – Feb. 12 and March 12 at 10 a.m.  
Planning Board – Feb. 18 and March 4 at 6:30 p.m.  
Open Space Committee – Feb. 23 and March 30 at 7 p.m.  
Board of Selectmen – March 1, March 15 and March 29 at 6:30 p.m.  
Conservation Commission – March 2 at 7 p.m.  
Town Center Committee – March 18 at 7 p.m.

### PETERSHAM

Board of Health – Feb. 4 and Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.  
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee 2020 – Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m.  
Council on Aging – Feb. 10 at 10 a.m.  
Cemetery Commission – Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.  
Petersham Historic District – Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.  
Board of Assessors – Feb. 19 at 10 a.m.  
Planning Board – Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.

## North Brookfield School Committee notebook

By Paula Ouimette  
Staff writer

### School rebranding

At its Jan. 25 meeting, North Brookfield School Superintendent Richard Lind and School Committee Chairman MariaTucker told committee members of their recent meeting with Jake Messier, of HEARD Strategy, a marketing company. Messier had offered his services at no cost to school districts looking to “rebrand” their mascots, logos or nicknames. Messier is a 1989 graduate of North Brookfield High School and is currently working with the Athol School District and Nashoba Regional School District. Lind said he is entering into an agreement with HEARD Strategy to help facilitate the process of rebranding the school mascot, along with the committee that is yet to be formed. Late last year, the School Committee voted to end using the Indian team name and logo.

### Student Advisory Council update

Student Advisory Council member Megan Bokis said they are selling the remaining merchandise featuring the Indian mascot that is in their school store. Bokis said the items and prices will be posted on their Instagram page (North Brookfield StuCo) in a few weeks. She said they will host a Polar Plunge at a local lake or pond. The council has raised \$200 to date. The date and location of the plunge are undecided at this moment. Proceeds from the Polar Plunge will benefit the Special Olympics.

### Administrator reports

North Brookfield Middle High School Co-Principal Jeanne Powers said the middle school English teacher Heather Dekarski will be teaching a theater class

for seventh-graders. Powers hopes they can expand it to both middle and high school in the future.

North Brookfield Elementary School Principal Sarah Priestley said students were able to take part in a virtual kindness/bullying program through the Worcester district attorney’s office. She said they are bringing back “star bucks” for their PBIS to celebrate their “star” behavior. Priestley said they will also be wrapping Director of Student Services Mark Minucci in bubble wrap as a fundraiser.

Minucci said he wanted to give kudos to staff for their involvement with helping students get the services they need.

Powers also thanked professional development pod leaders, who have shared their learning and training with their coworkers.

### Recognitions

Lind introduced eighth-grade student, Jarrett Shipman, the Project 351 ambassador for North Brookfield. Shipman was selected by school staff for his academic achievement, good citizenship and helping others. Lind said they are excited to have another student participate in this project. Lind also recognized Cami Zalauskas, who was selected as the Superintendent’s Scholar for her academic achievement. Zalauskas is a top scholar in her class this year.

Lind also announced that North Brookfield had seven students that scored in the advanced category during MCAS testing and were in the top 20% of their class, earning them the John & Abigail Adams Scholarship. This academic scholarship applies to state colleges and universities. School Committee Chair Maria Tucker congratulated all the students for their achievements. Lind also thanked the School Committee in recognition of National School Board Appreciation Month.

### Superintendent’s Goals 2020-2021

Lind read his goals for this school year, most of which focused on reopening and improving school/family relationships after the shutdown last March, as well as having he and Powers become co-principals of the high school. The committee moved and approved the Superintendent’s Goals for 2020-2021.

### Mascot draft policy

Lind asked the committee to vote on the policy and waive the three readings rule. The committee moved and approved the new policy for the mascot and waived the three readings.

### School nurse approved

The School Committee approved the hiring of North Brookfield Elementary School Nurse Shirley McAfee. The committee moved and approved the hiring of Shirley McAfee.

### Virtual schools

School Committee members approved not setting a limit on the number of students who can enroll in virtual schools. Lind said they can limit student enrollment in virtual schools to 1% (10 students), but he did not like limiting student learning opportunities.

### Technology report

Lind said they received 55 additional Chromebooks for students. They have also implemented their Zoom licenses they purchased for staff.

### Facilities report

Lind said they have added antifreeze to both heating systems, at a cost of almost \$20,000. The upgraded filters for the high school are in and all set to go. They are also continuing to work on the hallways.

## Oakham

Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com



## OHA lists lottery winners

The Oakham Historical Association announces the January winners in the annual 20-20 lottery fundraiser. They are Marcia Casault of Barre, Lloyd Amesbury of Woonsocket, R.I., Greg Mathis of Scottsdale, AZ (two times) and “Archie” Tessnau, Bernice Stone, Barbara Murphy and Kathie Dougan, all of Oakham. The contest began Jan. 5 with two drawings per week and will have two \$50 winners each week until March 11 when the fundraiser ends. Each ticket costs \$20 and is valid for 20 drawings. Ticket holders can win more than once. A check is automatically mailed to the individual, whose ticket number matches the middle two digits drawn in the Tuesday and Thursday evening Massachusetts Daily Number lottery. The association greatly appreciates the generous support given to this annual fundraising effort.

Mask sales benefit BSER Tabby Tashjian’s mask store, Stony Bridge Farm, 1148 Turnpike Road, will continue to be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. She is donating all proceeds from the sale of her masks to Bay State Equine Rescue. There are many colors and sizes to choose. There are cotton cloth non-medical facemasks in pre-school, child, large child/small adult and adult sizes with pleated and adjustable ear styles. Masks are individually packaged and labeled for convenient, self-serve shopping and purchase in the garage. Cost is \$5 each; two for \$8; four for \$15 and six for \$20. She will have Valentines Day, St. Patrick’s Day and Easter/Springtime masks.

### BOH

All businesses in Oakham are required to enforce mask/face covering requirements, as well as limit customers to ensure social distancing. No food or beverage should be consumed in any Oakham business by customers as there is not sufficient spacing to allow this more importantly, there are no businesses in Oakham currently licensed/permitted as a sit-down restaurant (take out only, which includes coffee and snacks). If people do not feel comfortable with the way the business is following safety protocols, they can decide whether to continue to frequent that establishment.

### No church services

The Oakham Congregational Church’s Church Council voted to suspend church services and Sunday School through the end of February due to the high COVID-19 cases in Oakham. Church council will decide when to hold indoor church services after that or continue the furlough depending on the COVID-19 numbers.

## Hardwick Town Election set for April 12

HARDWICK – The Annual Town Election will held on Monday, April 12. The last day to obtain and submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification by Monday, Feb. 22, by 5 p.m.

The last day to file nomination papers with Town Clerk is on Monday, March 8, by 5 p.m. The last day to object or withdraw nomination papers is Wednesday, March 10, by 5 p.m. The last day to register to vote in the Annual Town Election, is on Tuesday, March 23, 8 p.m.

Voter registration will take place in the Myron E. Richardson Building at 307 Main St., Gilbertville on Tuesday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. This is the last day and hour to register voters who wish to vote at the Annual Town Election. Mail-in voter registrations will be accepted if postmarked no later than the March 23 deadline.

Financial statements must be filed by all candidate for election by the following dates even if the candidate has no financial activity to report. The first financial report is due April 5, by 5 p.m., and the second is due on May 12, at noon.

Minorities, females and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to run for office. The town of Hardwick is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Genealogical society hosts virtual program

REGION - Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc. will host a Zoom presentation Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. Presented by Thomas MacEntee, the topic is “The 1950 U.S. Federal Census: Are You Ready?” For more information about how to join this presentation, people may find CMGS on Facebook.

New members are welcome to join CMGS; there are many more opportunities other than the monthly meetings. Membership is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple per year (January-December). Membership fees can be mailed to CMGS, P.O. Box 811, Westminster, MA. 01473. For more information, people may visit [www.cmgs.org](http://www.cmgs.org).

## Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at [barrenews@turley.com](mailto:barrenews@turley.com) or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## Bigelow Library lists upcoming events

CLINTON – The Bigelow Free Public Library is offering the following free, virtual programs.

Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a virtual visit and gift-making workshop with author Maggie Battista, author of “Food, Gift, Love.” Come join the pre-Valentine’s Day gift making fun when author Maggie Battista has a virtual meet and greet at the Bigelow Library. We will be making one of her delicious gifts from her book, “Food, Gift, Love.” Registrants will receive the ingredients to make her Brown Sugar Rub from the cookbook, which is an amazing flavor to add to meats or veggies and makes for the perfect Valentine’s meal or gift. People can register at <http://bigelowlibrary.org/calendar/> to receive the Zoom meeting invitation and the tea samples.

Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 6:30

p.m. there will be “The Health Benefits of Tea” with Danielle Beaudette of the Cozy Tea Cart via Zoom Presentation. Join them when they learn about the health benefits of adding whole-leaf tea to your daily diet, including the information you should know about antioxidants, caffeine and which teas might be the best for you, black, oolong, green, white or pu-erh. Registrants will receive tea samples they can sip along on from the comfort and safety or their own homes during the lecture. People can register to attend at <http://bigelowlibrary.org/calendar/> to receive the Zoom meeting invitation and the tea samples. Funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. It is part of the

Bigelow Library’s “Everyone is Welcome at the Table” series.

Wednesday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. there will be “Armchair Travels with Steve Farras” via Zoom Presentation. Join them for an exciting new series of “armchair travels” via Zoom as they explore the wonderful United States National Parks system with travel expert Steve Farras. In this presentation Farras will lead us through a brief introduction of the National Parks system, highlighting what to look for and what to expect from the over 419 parks available to explore. People can register at <http://bigelowlibrary.org/calendar/> to receive the Zoom meeting invitation.

For more information, people may contact the Bigelow Free Public Library, 54 Walnut St., Clinton MA 01510 at 978-365-4061 or [mfournier@cwmar.org](mailto:mfournier@cwmar.org).

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1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA  
413-566-8324  
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CURRENT HOURS: Mon-Thurs 3-8pm;  
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Lounge open & pizza available 7 days

◆ **Route 20 Bar & Grille**  
2341 Boston Road (The Wilbraham Shops)  
Wilbraham, MA  
413-279-2020  
[www.route20barandgrille.com](http://www.route20barandgrille.com)  
CURRENT HOURS: Lunch: Thurs-Sat starting at 11:30am; Dinner: Tues-Thurs 4-9pm;  
Fri & Sat 4-10pm; Sunday 11:30am-7:00pm;  
Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

◆ **Donovan's Irish Pub**  
Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, MA  
413-543-0791  
[www.donovanspub.com](http://www.donovanspub.com)  
CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm;  
Sun 9am-7pm; Sunday breakfast 9am - noon

◆ **Venice Pizza & Grill**  
2341 Boston Road, The Wilbraham Shops  
Wilbraham, MA  
413-540-8080  
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OPEN: Tues-Thurs 10:45am-9:30pm  
Fri & Sat 10:45am -10pm; Sun 11am-9pm  
Closed Monday



# Opinion

## Editorial

### Western Mass. needs more COVID vaccine sites

Phase II of the Massachusetts COVID-19 vaccination program rolled out Monday. The bleak weather that ushered in the new week turned out to be an apt metaphor for the plan so far, especially if you reside in Western Mass.

Due to a lack of supply of the vaccine and high demand by residents waiting to be inoculated, prioritizing which residents are first in line makes sense. Healthcare workers, first-responders, and other categories of people facing the highest risk were designated for the first phase. The second phase prioritizes those age 75 and older, followed by seniors age 65 and up, people with certain underlying conditions, then other front-line workers, such as grocery store staff and teachers. Everyone else is expected to become eligible in April, assuming enough vaccine doses are available.

That part of the plan is sound. We'll even say it's fair because the most vulnerable among us and those doing essential work who can't do their jobs while quarantining should be protected first while waiting for vaccine production to catch up with demand.

What's lacking is a plan for mass inoculation sites in Western Mass. If you take a look at the distribution site map on mass.gov, you'll see a lone red star, which represents a mass site, in our entire region. Most of what you'll see are green stars signifying local health care providers and blue stars that are effectively wishful thinking because those are for pharmacies and right now, none of our local chains are offering shots.

Hampden County alone has over 466,000 residents, yet Eastfield Mall in Springfield is the one mass vaccination site. Glance over toward Boston on the distribution map and there's a solid wall of red stars, most notably Fenway Park and Gillette Stadium.

How ironic that the part of the Commonwealth with the most open space hasn't been leveraged to create pop-up vaccination clinics. Yes, you could practically fit all of Chicopee into Fenway while filling Gillette with the combined populations of Pittsfield and Ludlow, but what we lack in sheer numbers we make up for with resources.

Fred Ferguson, owner of Palmer Motorsports Park, said he'd gladly open his facility for use as an inoculation site if asked. Brimfield has acres of fields where flea markets are held in-season that could be temporarily repurposed. Not to mention farms just about everywhere that could be suitable.

There's a long list of possibilities if the COVID-19 Task Force would only consider expanding access in our region. And it should.

Another improvement we'd like to see is the sign-up process. The online portal set up to request a shot opened to poor reviews, especially from the senior citizen segment, who found it less than user-friendly. Despite Gov. Charlie Baker's exasperated retort that it couldn't possibly be any easier, the fact is too many seniors couldn't navigate it.

In response, state senators Eric Lesser and Anne Gobi led a bipartisan effort to prod the Taskforce into setting up a special 1-800 call center to book appointments. Baker seemed agreeable and hopefully by next week if not sooner, that centralized system will be up and running. Time is of the essence when working to end a pandemic and the more those eligible in this phase are encouraged to sign up for the vaccine, the better off we'll all be.

Primarily though, the task force needs a plan to create more mass sites in our region. Those eligible now deserve more options for getting their initial shot and eventual booster. And hopefully, by phase III, everyone still waiting to be inoculated can do that quickly and without having too travel far.

Just because we're rural, doesn't mean we want to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 than our fellow citizens to the east.

## Letter to the Editor

### Resident does not support 2021 version of HB 897

I would like to offer a response to an article on Jan. 28 2021 by Kimberly Palmucci. In her article Palmucci offers up the opinions of Chris Matera of Mass. Forest Watch, that all logging and forest management practices of state owned public land stop and not be allowed in the future. Mr. Matera is quoted as saying that forestry plans and habitat management plans are "excuses" to cut down state forests, and "nonsense meant to confuse the public." he also asks that people call their legislators and show support for 2021 version of House Bill 897. In my opinion this is a very wrong and radical course of action. Some of the language in HB 897 would designate all state owned forests, wildlife management areas, watershed areas, conservation areas and others as State Parks. The bill would also ban forever habitat management plans, invasive plant treatments, and other sound forestry management plans.

There is most definitely a need for oversight of logging on state owned land. But not an across the board ban.

I would suggest that people do not support a 2021 version of HB 897. But instead tell their legislators to author a bill that insists on sound forestry plans and practices on state owned forests and includes real penalties to foresters and contractors that do not implement them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Wood  
Barre



## In Past Pages

5 years ago (March 3, 2016)

Robin Balducci, 25th-year head coach of the University of New Hampshire field hockey program, announced recently that Tiana Morin, of Barre, has committed to the University of New Hampshire and will join the UNH field hockey program for the 2016 season. "Tiana is coming off a successful high school career being a good scorer," Balducci said. "We look for her to bring a competitiveness in front of the goal and a strong work ethic on the field." Morin led Quabbin to an undefeated regular season (17-0-1) as a senior captain and finished the year with 34 goals and 14 assists to lead all scorers in Central Mass. She led the team in scoring each of the last three years and compiled a total of 90 career points, including 20 goals and seven assists as a junior. Morin was a two-time SWCL All-Star and was named league MVP last fall, when she was also selected to the Best of 60 All-Star Team.

The Barre Fire Department is one of the host communities that house a technical rescue trailer for the Fire District 8 Technical Rescue Team. As part of being a community that has members on the team, Barre Fire Department hosted a training scenario on Feb. 25 and 28 at the sewer pumping station by Fire Station 2 on Wheelwright Road. The training was the same on both days and was offered on two different dates to accommodate the schedules of the 50 team members. The training simulated a situation where a Barre Sewer department worker suffered a medical condition while working in the bottom of the Wheelwright Road sewer pumping station. Due to it being a confined space, the technical rescue was called to remove the patient.

A seventy plus year old spruce fell either late Wednesday, Feb. 24 or early Thursday, Feb. 25 during high winds, heavy rains and a thunderstorm. It did knock over the Veterans' monument, but it missed the flagpole, power lines and Oakham Congregational Church. The tree was planted in 1946 in memory of Robert Dwelly, who was killed at the end of World War II. The town hopes to plant another tree, possibly one that would not grow as tall to replace it and will reset the Veterans' monument. Tuesday, March 1, the Oakham Highway Department cut up the tree, chipped branches and removed the wood.

10 years ago (Feb. 10, 2011)

Peter Smith has found a way to make use of all the snow piling up in his yard. The 30-year-old owner of Landmark Landscaping uses his snow blower to blow all of

### LOOK BACK Paper Boy - 1984



Turley Publications File Photo

**Daniel Fontaine, or Danny, as we all call him, is The Barre Gazette's one and only paperboy. He serves eight customers on School Street after school each Thursday. Danny is a fifth grade student at Ruggles Lane School and is the son of Martha Shepardson, Barre and Arthur Fontaine of Athol. Danny does his job very well and we're real proud of his stick-to-it-iveness and so aren't his customers.**

the snow into a pile, which packs it in, then he gets his handsaw and other tolls and gets to work. His creation, seen in his front yard on Ware Corner Road in Oakham, has caused quite a few drivers to pull over and stare. "I've had families from Auburn come out here to look at it," Smith said. A spotlight has been set up for night viewing. "It looks really cool at night," he said. This is the first sculpture that Smith has ever created. He said that he got the idea for the Egyptian sphinx based on a photo he saw on the Internet. "My neighbor down the street actually inspired me to do it. He made a big snowman a couple of years ago, so I was going to make one too, but then I thought to do this instead." He said it took him about three days to complete the sculpture.

Senator Stephen Brewer (D-Barre) and Stare Representative Todd Smola (R-Palmer) chatted with Governor Deval Patrick during a recent visit to Old Sturbridge Village. Governor Patrick received a copy of the Barre Gazette that Brewer gave to him because it featured a front-page story on the Senator's daughter, who is currently visiting Africa.

Freshman Cory dela Gorgendiere was one of the 176 student-athletes to make the Commissioner's Honor roll. Twelve Siena College field hockey student-athletes have earned Northeast Conference Academic Honor Roll selections for their work in the classroom both cumulatively and during the fall semester. In addition, freshman Cory dela Gorgendiere was named to the prestigious NEC Commissioner's Honor Roll.

25 years ago (Feb. 8, 1996)

Three students from Quabbin are being congratulated for being selected for the New England

Music Festival. Senior Toni Musnicki will play clarinet in the band. She was also selected vocally. Sophomore Ellen Kittredge will play French horn in the band and sophomore Zachary Hamel will sing bass in the chorus.

Christopher Marc Buelow of Ruggles hill Road in Hardwick recently graduated from Unity College in unity, Maine. Buelow earned a bachelor of art's degree in wildlife biology and is a certified wildlife biologist pursuing a career in ornithology. Buelow was named to the dean's list during his final semester at Unity. He is a 1991 graduate of Quabbin Regional High School in Barre and is the son of Raymond and Sharyn Buelow of Hardwick.

Mary Jane Marconi Shuttes, daughter of Oswald and Grace Marconi of Pleasant Street, Barre, has relocated with her husband, Peter, to Munich, Germany for three years. Peter is one of six founders of Workgroup Technology, a four-year old maker of data management software and workflow systems.

38 years ago (Feb. 10, 1983)

Douglas R. Klimavich of Batchellor Drive, North Brookfield, has been named to the dean's list at Bentley College, Waltham. Mr. Klimavich is presently a first semester senior at the college and was recently elevated president of the Sigma Gamma Delta fraternity as well. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing management.

Katherine Amanda Wheeler, formerly of Main Street, Hubbardston, celebrated her 101st birthday Jan. 24 at the Gardner Manor Nursing Home, Mayor of Gardner Charles P. McKean presented Miss Wheeler with a souvenir miniature rocking chair with the city seal on it.

Air National Guard Senior Airman George H. Roberts, son of Ann B. Roberts of Barre and George H. Roberts of Marion, has graduated from the U.S. Air Force course for radio relay equipment repairmen at Keesler Air Force Base; Miss. Roberts will now serve with the 101st Tactical Control Squadron in Worcester.

## Guest Column

### Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear Folks,

Things have been pretty quiet so far this week. Missy is busy finishing her latest project at the sewing machine and doesn't know I am around. Perhaps that is good. I will wash my feet in the shower drain and then I will pull down all the towels off the racks. There are extra ones this week because Missy's great-granddaughter stayed over one night.

When I have pulled the towels down, I will check out the newspapers under the desk in the living room. Yep, there is a good supply, but maybe I will do that later.

I seem to remember Missy talking about a mouse being in her closet and leaving seeds in her boots. I will check to see if there are any live mice around. I really do try to catch them now and then in my old age. Whoops, what is that thing? I will just scoot by it to check her boots in the other part of the closet. Ouch, ouch, my tail is caught in the darn thing. I am dragging it with me meowing, out into the kitchen for Missy to see.

"Oh, Gertrude, you poor little thing," Missy exclaims. She grabbed me and held me long enough to get the spring loose and my tail free. Fortunately, only the end of the tail was caught and no blood or really serious problem, but an annoying one to say the least.

The end of the tail smarted a little, but it didn't really hurt bad. I decided then and there to go back and mess up the papers and them to curl up on Missy's bed between the pillows and have my morning nap once I had a drink of water and my treats Missy had just put down.

This was not the quiet day I had envisioned earlier this morning. You folks take cart this week and watch out for those mousetraps.

Love,  
Gertrude



## NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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# Serenity Hill Sampler

by Jane McCauley

I am writing this on Sunday and anticipating a big storm on Monday into Tuesday. Ken started both snow blowers and has them ready to go.

The good news was a friend called and told me about a vaccine clinic at the PACC Hall in Gardner and I was able to get an appointment for both Ken and me. It will be a big stress off my mind. It has been hard to find a site for age 75 and over and finally they are realizing all seniors don't know how to use a computer. The site was set up easy for me to understand and enter. Our two girls will be happy to hear that.

Being so cold this week, I shut myself in my art and craft room and water colored most of the days. When I watched television, I wrapped myself in a comforter to keep warm. My daughter sent some new magazines for me to read, as I am out of reading books. They know we need things to keep busy being in isolation. After we get our second shots, I hopefully can get out again.

Valentine day is coming up. I got a box of Russell Stover chocolates in a heart shape and put it on the mantle with my other Valentine decorations. It reminded me of the way my mother used to put all her empty heart shaped boxes on the mantle about two weeks before Valentine's Day to remind my step dad Valentine's Day was coming. We called them "her hint boxes"



This is a photo of Jane McCauley at age 2.

and it usually worked.

This story reminded of a trick I played on Ken one Christmas. He had received a very expensive box of chocolates. I took them out of the box and replaced them with a cheap brand and ate his. I told him in later years and he was not very pleased.

Here is a recipe I received from my dear friend Nancy from N.H. for Valentine's Day. It is called Cheating Chocolate Souffle.

### CHEATING CHOCOLATE SOUFFLE

- 1 1/3 cup milk
  - 1/2 cup sugar
  - 2 oz. unsweetened baking chocolate
  - pinch salt
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla
  - 4 eggs
- Heat milk, sugar and chocolate in top of a double boiler. When chocolate is melted, add salt and

vanilla, beat smooth with an electric or rotary mixer. Crack and drop in eggs then beat hard for two full minutes with mixer. Cook, covered in top of double boiler for 40 minutes. Don't peek and be sure there is plenty of water in the bottom of the double boiler. Best served warm with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream, but is good cold also.

### This and That

Recently, Michael Richard has written an article in a local newspaper about Bickford Playground in South Gardner. It reminded me of an event that happened in 1938 at the playground. I lived in South Gardner and my father entered me in a baby contest at the playground. I won first prize and he was so proud of me he brought me up street to have my photograph taken in a studio. Enclosed is the picture he had taken of me at age 2. The next year my father passed away and I don't remember him. This was all told by my mother and I also have the original prize ribbon.

I never had curls again as mother started braiding my hair and I lost all my curls. I sent the picture to Michael Richard and he said that I looked like my two daughters. Here is the original picture that I keep in my picture gallery in the upper hall.

Have a good week and please wear your masks and stay a distance in public.

## BARRE, continued from page 1

tored after receiving the shot. He said he would rather people come to clinic for their shots and to keep going to them to a minimum. Sizur said she would inquire about it with Fire Chief Robert Rogowski.

Information about vaccine clinics would be posted on the town website. The board of health had a list of those eligible for the vaccine

## NORTH BROOKFIELD, continued from page 1

ment grants from last year to this year. The district has \$829,747 in revolving accounts that they use to offset expenses. Last year's pandemic relief funds totaled \$62,000, with this year's estimate projected to be \$240,000, for a total of \$306,500. The district's fiscal 2022 net budget request is \$7,173,955.47, which is after over \$1 million in offsets. With the pandemic relief funds, this number would be reduced to \$6,867,455.42, reflecting an 11.51% increase from fiscal 2021's budget. Lind said the fiscal 2022 budget also includes salary increases that are contractually required as these increases were waived in fiscal 2021.

He said that transportation has also increased significantly, an almost 20% increase from last year, totaling \$624,794. Tucker said it is really important that school administrators ask for the budget that they would like, even if the town is unable to fund all of it. Lind said the proposed budget reflects what they need, but he understands that they will not get it. Lind said the budget needs to be submitted to the town by March 1 so it can go before Town Meeting in May or June.

### Financial reports

Lind said the district is continuing to work to balance the accounts with the town, but they still have some differences. He said according to Business/HR Assistant Shiela LeBlanc's report, there is roughly a \$5,000 difference. Lind said LeBlanc is working closely with the town to rectify the situation.

## FOOD PANTRY, continued from page 1

are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions.

As they have since last spring's distributions, in order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients, Feb. 10 and 18 will again be "drive-through" style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

They will remain in their cars. They'll drive up and be checked in by a volunteer, then continue up to the church building where their

groceries will be put into the trunk or way back of their vehicle by volunteers.

Based on the success of distributions so far, the Barre Food Pantry volunteers believe this "drive-through" style is the safest possible way to get food to clients and to help keep everyone well.

Before the pandemic pantry volunteers and clients were able to greet each other with a smile.

With all volunteers and clients now wearing masks in public, the volunteers hope that everyone will still hear the smiles in their voices.

While the pantry typically used to have an "all hands on deck" approach to welcoming volunteers, in February they will once again be working with just a very small

crew.

They are preparing for the distribution by only working in shifts at the pantry, in small household/family groups.

Please do not arrive to volunteer on Feb.10 or 18 without first contacting Dave Petrovick at 978-355-4519 or Chuck Radlo at 978-355-6463.

The pantry sincerely appreciates all the volunteers, who have stayed home. Because conditions have been changing rapidly, please continue to check for updates on the Barre Food Pantry website: <http://www.barrefoodbank.org/index.htm> and the Barre Food Pantry Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Barre-Food-Pantry-100156068300314/>.

# In My Backyard by Ellenor Downer

The last week of January, I saw a barred owl perched in a tree at the edge of my yard. Last year, I saw a barred owl in my yard on a regular basis. It would often perch on the roof of my henhouse. This year, I had not seen it until recently. It was probably hoping to catch rodents hiding in the tall grass.

The barred owl is a large earless owl with dark eyes. It has barring on its head and chest with streaking underneath. It has gray and brown feathers and white spots on its back. It is about 17 to 24 inches long. The barred owl and barn owl are the only owls with black eyes; all others have yellow eyes.

The barred owl is one of the more vocal owls, often calling during the day and saying "hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo," which sounds like "who cooks fro you?" The female's hoots are higher pitched than the male's. They inhabit woods and woodland swamps. A pair often calls back and forth to each other.

The female lays two to four white eggs. She will use a nest box, which has a hole greater than six inches or nest in an abandoned hawk or crow nest. The average territory is about one square mile.

In winter, they may expand the territory with males often leaving the territory when food is scarce. In early spring, they return to their mate and territory.

### Injured barred owl

I recently read a barred owl, which was struck by a car, and brought to the Cummings School Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in Grafton for treatment, was returned to the wild. A man driving behind the vehicle, which hit the owl, saw it happen. He stopped as the owl appeared stunned and was flapping its wings. He wrapped it in his coat and called police. It was brought to Tufts and released back into the wild at a wildlife area near where it was found a few weeks later.

### Red winged blackbird

A Wheelwright resident saw his first red-winged blackbird for 2021. He said he did not see the bird at his feeder, but he saw it perched in a tree and then in flight.

### Flock of robins

I received an email from a North Brookfield resident on Jan. 30. She said, "This week I had a flock of robins descend on my holly bush and eat every berry on

it and it was full of berries." She also had four starlings come to her feeders.

### Birds during snowstorm

The month of February opened with a major snowstorm Monday, Feb. 1 into Tuesday, Feb. 2. It dumped over a foot of snow. The snow started early Monday and I had a mourning dove, five or six blue jays, at least six American goldfinches, a pair of cardinals, three chipping sparrows, downy woodpeckers, red-bellied woodpecker, black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice and dark-eyed juncos. I also had a group of gray squirrels. Tuesday I had two squirrels tunneled into the snow to find the seeds on the ground under the tray feeder. Except for the mourning dove, all the birds from yesterday came to the feeders. The male cardinal stood out with his bright red against the white snow.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

## Column

# How to grow nutritious sweet potatoes

The sweet potato is a nutritional powerhouse. According to [www.nutritiondata.com](http://www.nutritiondata.com), it is "low in sodium, and very low in saturated fat and cholesterol. It is also a good source of dietary fiber, vitamin B6 and potassium, and a very good source of vitamin A, vitamin C and manganese." If these facts aren't reason enough to try adding this veggie to our garden this growing season, delight in the fact that it is also a very pretty vine.

If my memory is correct, my Mom attempted to grow sweet potatoes one summer when I was child. It wasn't all that impressive as I recall, at least not as impressive as her peanut growing experiment! Anyhow, the one thing we have against us is that sweet potatoes require a long growing season, somewhere between 90-150 days. The tender shoots are cold sensitive, and must be planted into the ground after all danger of frost has passed. In our area we use Memorial Day as our "frost-free date." Then, the edible root, aka the sweet potato, must be harvested before the first frost of fall. By my records, the first frost usually occurs in early October. This equates to 100 days bare minimum of growing time. Still interested, read on.

You can purchase plants through

the mail or try sprouting your own from sweet potatoes purchased from the grocery store. Dick Raymond, author of my favorite gardening book of all time, "Garden Way's Joy of Gardening" (Storey Publishing \$24.95), has some great tips for doing this: Seven or eight weeks prior to Memorial Day, simply cut the spuds in half length-wise and lay them down in moist peat moss in a shallow tray. Cover with plastic wrap and place in a sunny window until sprouting occurs. Slips should be separated and planted about six inches deep, 12 to 15 inches apart from one another. He advises to water well for the first two weeks; after that sweet potato plants are reportedly somewhat drought tolerant. When fertilizing, choose a formulation that is a bit lower in nitrogen, otherwise you will have lots of vines at the expense of sweet potatoes.

Dig up your bounty on a dry day, being extra careful not to damage the skin. Don't leave them exposed to the sun for more than an hour and don't wash them either. Picky,



Roberta McQuaid Columnist

aren't they? Fresh sweet potatoes aren't all that sweet, a curing period of two weeks in the dark at 70 to 80 degrees and at high humidity will bring out the great flavor we are accustomed to. Long-term storage should be at temperatures around 60 degrees.

To make sweet potato fries simply cut the root into thick wedges, then toss them with seasoned olive oil (or a favorite salad dressing). Bake on a cookie sheet at 350 degrees for one hour, flipping occasionally. Some ketchup as a dip may help reluctant kids to give the "funny orange French fries" a try.

It's my hope that you all enjoy growing sweet potatoes from "scratch," so to speak!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekenedy@turley.com](mailto:ekenedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Nuclear near reach weapon
- 5. Of she
- 8. Hyperbolic function
- 12. Rice dish
- 14. A team's best pitcher
- 15. Strong and healthy
- 16. Induces
- 18. Popular manga series
- 19. From a distance
- 20. Split
- 21. Consumed
- 22. Cushions
- 23. All over
- 26. One who provides food
- 30. St. \_\_\_ Girl, brand of beer
- 31. Walking slowly
- 32. Wood
- 33. Semitic gods
- 34. Bugle

### CLUES DOWN

- 39. 60-minute periods (abbr.)
- 42. Congressman
- 44. Plant of the heath family
- 46. Subdivision of an army
- 47. Having many different forms
- 49. Shellfish
- 50. Latin for hail
- 51. Between sixth and seventh
- 56. Maori war dance
- 57. Precious or semiprecious stone
- 58. Teeter totter
- 59. Deity
- 60. A major division of geological time
- 61. Fishing net
- 62. Small Caribbean bird
- 63. Field force unit
- 64. Japanese beverage

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Prevents oil spills
- 2. Monetary unit
- 3. The color of the sky
- 4. Dough used to make tortillas
- 5. Popular comic strip character
- 6. Distinct form of a plant
- 7. Replenishment
- 8. Has its own altar
- 9. Expedition to see animals
- 10. Group of related organisms
- 11. His and \_\_\_
- 13. Frenetically
- 16. Small integer
- 24. Unit of energy
- 25. Studies of culture
- 26. Taxi
- 27. Doctors' group
- 28. Don't know when yet

### CLUES DOWN

- 29. Former measure of length
- 35. Popular CBS series
- 36. Skin condition
- 37. Christian creator and ruler of the universe
- 38. They \_\_\_
- 40. Caused severe damage
- 41. Work done under harsh conditions for no pay
- 42. One point east of due south
- 43. Sea eagles
- 44. Drenched
- 45. State capital
- 47. Italian city
- 48. Sweetheart (archaic)
- 49. Brief talk
- 52. Popular disco group: Bee \_\_\_
- 53. First Chinese dynasty
- 54. Military vehicle
- 55. Chinese Moslem

ANSWERS ON PAGE 16



# Church News

## Local pastors offer sermons

### Matters of Faith Pt. 4

We are in the midst of a series on the subject of faith. As has been established, faith can be defined as a God-centered confidence or trust. Let us continue to examine the types of belief outlined in Scripture. Please note the following:

#### 1) “Shielding” Faith Ephesians 6:10-17

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Arrows were a common and particularly dangerous implement of warfare in ancient times. Opposing armies would often volley arrows at their targets, hoping to inflict maximum carnage and loss of life. Shields provided the most effective defense against such a weapon, as they could deflect damage and/or prevent penetration. Woe to the soldier, who went into battle and faced the fiery darts of the enemy without a shield.

Similarly, the enemy of our soul showers “flaming arrows” (v. 16) upon us in the form of deceptions meant to discourage or dissuade. Consider that Christ identified Satan as a liar and the “father of lies” (John 8:44)! Our best defense against his offensive tactics is to utilize the “shield of faith” (v. 16). How do we do this practically?

When the enemy whispers into your heart, “God does not love you!” it is time for a faith-filled and shielding response: “I am convinced that God is love (1 John 4:8), and that He has loved me with an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3). If God loved me enough to send His Son while I was His enemy (Rom. 5:8), how much more will I know His love as His child in Christ (John 1:12)!”

When he whispers into your heart, “God does not hear you!” it is time for a faith-filled and shielding response: “I believe that Christ meant it when He extended the invitation (Matt. 7:7-8); ‘Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.’”

Woe to the one who contends with the fiery darts of the enemy without the shield of faith.

#### 2) “Great” Faith Matthew 8:5-10, 13

5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.”

7 Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

8 The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

10 When Jesus heard this, he

was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. . . . 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.

What is “great” faith? Great faith is a sure and certain confidence in the Lord and in the authority of His Word. Whereas little faith (noted last week) is subject to vacillation and retreat in the midst of difficulty, great faith is unwavering in nature. It is the type of faith that takes Christ at His promise, believing in its total sufficiency. Consider that the centurion did not need Jesus to personally attend to the needs of the paralytic in order to effect change. He only needed Him to speak the word and it would be done.

I admire and aspire to such a faith, confessing I am not there yet! When faced by adversity or affliction, I often want some dramatic evidence that God has heard my prayer and purposes to intervene (e.g., an audible response, a vision or the blowing of a mighty wind, etc.). But to be at a point where God’s Word is enough and ends all debate—that is truly exceptional.

It is worth noting that Jesus said He had not found such faith in all Israel at the time of this happening (v. 10). I assure you that He was looking! Thus, there seems to be something tragically rare about great faith. Though it is a degree of belief anyone can access, few seem to attain it. Why settle for a small faith when we can possess it in greater and greater degrees?

Let us give God what He is looking for.

#### 3) “Living” Faith

James 2:14-17

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? 15 Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

If there is a “dead” faith (v. 17), there must logically be a version, which is alive and well. A “living” faith is a sincere, transformative belief that evidences itself in righteous works. To be clear, we are saved by grace through faith alone (Eph. 2:8-9). No amount of religious activity or good deeds can save you-only Christ can save (Acts 4:12). However, a genuine faith must manifest itself in daily life and living (v. 17).

This reflects what Christ taught during His earthly ministry:

Matthew 7:17-20

17. . . every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

John 15:5, 8

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing . . . 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

When it comes to faith, there is simply no substitute for the real thing!

Thank you for taking the time to read this publication. Feel free to check us out online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org) or visit us in person each Sunday at 10:30am (COVID-19 protocols are presented on the aforementioned website). We hope to see you soon!

Pastor James Foley  
New Life Assembly of God  
South Barre

### Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

“Let not My Freedom be a Stumbling Block.”

Our services can be found on our website at [www.barrechurch.com](http://www.barrechurch.com) and Facebook page

Scripture Reading: 1  
Corinthians 8 v 1-13

#### I. Introduction:

There are many things in life we believe in, or hold dear to, that gives us the freedom to build our lives around. We get accustomed to living our lives according to what we believe in, what feels comfortable to us, and what makes us thrive and be successful. There are also things that we love and what gives us pleasure in life, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the sports we play, the music we listen to, and things like gardening, carpentry, farming, teaching, technology, science, and more. We also build our knowledge around those things and disciplines, and the more we know about something we believe in, like or love, the more we get attached to it, and make our decisions accordingly. In our passage Paul talks about a kind of knowledge that can impact our lives and the lives of others in different ways. Let us examine what that is, and what it means for us.

#### II. Let not My freedom Be a Stumbling Block for the Weak

Paul’s message in 1 Corinthians Chapters 8 – 10, is about the life we live as Christians, through the liberating act of God through Christ, and the reconciling relationship between God and humanity. We have been freed from the burden of our sins through the cross and have received the salvation, which is a gift of life, free to live without judgment from God, but in relationship with God. In Christ, we have been freed from a legalistic way of life where many transgressions would be punishable, even through death under OT laws. We have received the gift of forgiveness for our sins, which is a sign of God’s love, grace and generosity.

We must remember though, that all this freedom we have as Christians must be placed “under the discipline of Christian love for the building up of the Church of Christ”, says Herman Ridderbos in his book, “Paul, An Outline of His Theology”. In Chapter 8 verse 1, Paul talks to

2 the church in Corinth about the knowledge/ gnosis in Greek, which puffs up, but love that builds up. It is possible to use the knowledge they have as Christians for their own individualistic interests, which then manifests itself in the choices they make such as eating the food that had been sacrificed to idols. In doing so, they may view themselves as strong and are able to do the things that seemingly may not harm their relationship with God, however the things they do that are ok for them, may be the same things that would be difficult to handle for those who are weaker in conscience. Their strength and their knowledge may therefore not be in the building up of their relationship with their brothers and sisters, of their congregations, but may injure them, says Ridderbos.

There are those, he says, who, in their strength can eat food sacrificed to idols, who know that idols are nothing in this world, and that God is the only God, as opposed to those who in their weakened state look at food sacrificed to idols as indeed being sacrificed to idols, and therefore their weakened conscience is defiled. Through the eating of such food their relationship with God is weakened. But, he says, food does not bring us near to God, and it does not matter whether we eat it or not. However, why eat it if it becomes a stumbling block to

those who are weak, and look at you and follow you and does not have the strength in faith and in their bodies to stay close to God? It can be food, but it can be anything else we do, or consume that might be good for one and not the other.

Paul wants to acknowledge the freedom of Christians to live their lives that make them feel comfortable, but he also warns them to be careful in how their liberties and choices they make, may impact the ones who are weak. His focus in Corinthians is about the church as the Body of Christ as we see later in Chapter 12, where the members of the church must lean on one another, and complement each other in their diverse gifts, and in their diversity of gifts and strengths and weaknesses they must build up the Body of Christ, with Christ as the Head. When they eat or drink, it must be done for the glory of God and in service to the church and one another. They need to be careful, according to 8 verse 9, not to let their exercise of freedom become a stumbling block for the weak, whose weaker conscience might be destroyed by your knowledge, he says. And if they cause their fellow brothers and sisters to stumble, they sin against Christ.

#### III. Paul’s theology: Love is better path than knowledge.

In Chapter 8 verse 1 he says, knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. This is essence of Paul’s theology. We see that in 1 Corinthians 13, where he talks about all the things they possess, the knowledge they have, speaking in tongues, having all the gifts of prophecy, having faith like a mountain and more, but without love, all of that is nothing. Knowledge that puffs up, is about one’s own individualistic and selfish interests, that does not build the church. God, he says, is more concerned with the love and respect and care for the weaker one, than all the knowledge they have. 1 Corinthians 13 is the antidote to Chapter 8. It stands in contrast to the ones who are arrogantly living their lives in ways that are damaging to the weaker ones.

#### IV. Conclusion

Today we have many freedoms, right. Yes, there are laws that are implemented to regulate life, so we know we must stop at a stop sign, we must stop behind a school bus when it stops; then there are cultural norms, about respecting our elderly, and so forth. But there are many freedoms and we have developed so much knowledge about many things, and the knowledge we have obtained determine how we think and operate and how we make decisions. In church we have bylaws that regulate how we operate, and then there is the freedom we have in Christ. Paul is encouraging us as Christians not to be stumbling blocks to the weak but to use our freedom in Christ and our relationship with God, in loving and caring relationship with those who are weak, the downtrodden. We ought to lift others up, not hurt them through our words and actions. If we are stumbling blocks in the lives of others, we become stumbling blocks in the eyes of Christ.

We are encouraged to have a conscience that is always humble and considerate of the other, a conscience that is self-aware of how we speak and act, a conscience that is led by the Spirit of Christ, not the spirit driven by self-interest. May we all yield to the word of Paul, who speaks from experience, as one who was arrogant, and whose life was turned around by God in a forceful way he did not expect.

May God help and bless us all on our journeys. Amen

Pastor Margaret Keyser  
Barre Congregational Church

# Obituaries

## Hope Johnson Pobst, 93

BARRE – Hope Johnson Pobst, 93, passed away peacefully at home, just as she had always wished, on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021. Her husband of 65 years, John “Jay” Pobst, and her daughter, Amy R. Pobst Scannell predeceased her, in 2016 and 2009, respectively.

She is survived by her two daughters, Carol B. Pobst of Barre and Megan Virginia Pobst Cunningham of Washington D.C. and by her four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren: Megan’s daughter, Brandyn Hootstein Born of California, Brandyn’s two daughters, Ava Born and Brooke Born, and Megan’s son, Joshua Hootstein, and Amy’s son, Gordon Scannell, currently living in Utah and Amy’s daughter, Emily Scannell King of Virginia.

Hope met John while they were both students at Antioch College in Ohio. She worked as a high school history teacher after graduation and as a nursery school aide after her daughters were born, while John worked as an engineer. She returned to Massachusetts with John and her three daughters in the mid-sixties. She worked for many years in the office of con-

tinuing education at Simmons College and John worked as a city planner. When she and John retired, they moved back to her hometown of Barre.

Hope was a vibrant, spirited and energetic woman, who was happiest carrying out, single-handedly, home improvement projects to the homes she made so beautiful. Her warmth and her unconditional love will be mourned by her disconsolate family, who find succor in their grief from the countless good memories of our lives together. A private graveside service for Hope will be held in Glen Valley Cemetery in Barre. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre.

## DEATH NOTICE

Johnson Pobst, Hope  
Died: January 20, 2021  
Services are Private

## Tri-Parish Community Church news

NEW BRAINTREE – January 2021 moved on out Jan. 31 but, not before the Tri-Parish Community Church in New Braintree held a service led by Deacon Marguerite Crevier with a sermon, “God Is For You!” In it we learned that God does not keep a list of “who’s naughty and who’s nice – Jesus paid the price for that.”

The bitter cold did not keep a full baker’s dozen from worshipping. On Sunday, Feb. 7, still at

the New Braintree Congregational Church, the service will be led by the Rev. Kathleen Fitzgibbons and Deacon Ginny Rich. Immediately following that service will be the Tri-Parish annual meeting in which officers and members of the Tri-Parish Committee will be elected. Also, the budget and a membership by-law will be voted on. All are welcome to attend church and this important meeting. Social distancing is easy and masks are required.

## Jennifer Baublitz named executive director of Brookfield Institute

BROOKFIELD — Jennifer Baublitz has been named executive director of the Brookfield Institute, a nonprofit that builds resilience in veterans and military families in order to aggressively combat the causes and impacts of veteran suicide. Baublitz, 36, of Thompson, Connecticut, previously served as the Brookfield Institute’s program director. Founding director Beverly Prestwood-Taylor is now the chief operating officer and will be focusing on development and infrastructure. Baublitz has been with The Brookfield Institute for two years, helping to start the Women Veterans Initiative, contributing to the Resilience in Uncertain Times project and getting a new volunteer initiative, HomeFront Strong, up and running. A teacher, a leader and a member of a military family, Baublitz brings experience and knowledge to her new position. “I am thrilled and humbled to be presented with this invaluable opportunity to deliver crucial programs that are fully inclusive for all service members, veterans, and their families,” Baublitz said.

Baublitz currently teaches for three departments at Assumption University — psychology, human services and rehabilitation studies, and school counseling. She teaches “Strengthening Resilience for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families” — a course designed for clinicians and service providers. Her husband is Active Guard Reserve in the Connecticut Air National Guard;

he has served for 17 years and counting. She has also served in various roles, including classroom teacher for sixth grade, behavior interventionist, consulting teacher for integration, education consultant, program consultant and program manager. “As a military spouse of 18 years with two military children at home and a background in education, counseling, and resilience, it has become my passion to integrate these specialties in service of recognizing all who serve, and closing the gaps in services that persist as a result of exclusive criteria around access,” Baublitz said. “It is rare that the personal and professional goals of an individual align so perfectly with the mission of an organization, and yet I have managed to find just that.” Prestwood-Taylor said Baublitz will hit the ground running in her new position. “She’s not only part of a military family, but she has advanced training in resilience training and teaching,” she said. Prestwood-Taylor will continue to spearhead the Brookfield Institute’s food distribution program, which is undergoing some changes, and the Military Bereavement Support Group. The Brookfield Institute, [www.brookfieldinstitute.org](http://www.brookfieldinstitute.org), was founded in 2007 with a mission to ensure every military and veteran family has the necessary support to achieve optimal social, spiritual, physical and mental health for joyful, meaningful lives. Public events, trainings, support groups and outreach help achieve that goal.

## VACCINATIONS, continued from page 1

Lake Avenue North, Suite 201, Worcester.

Appointments available Monday through Thursday.

## NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com).

## BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Barre Gazette, please email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com).

## Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).



# In the Classroom

## MWCC holds nursing class of 2020 pinning ceremony

GARDNER – Mount Wachusett Community College honored the Practical Nursing class of 2020 with a virtual pinning presentation on December 21, 2020.

The pinning ceremony is a traditional event for graduating nursing students dating back to the 1800's and represents the official welcome of the graduates to the nursing profession by peers and instructors.

"I am really excited to be able to offer my congratulations to all of you. As we've gone through this year, probably the most difficult year any of us had, either in school or professionally, you have maintained a focus that is really admirable," shared James Vander Hooven, President of Mount Wachusett Community College. "You have been able to complete a program that you put your heart into and you're going to go out and do great things for our community. I want to thank each

and every one of you for the effort you have put in, and for doing it here with us at the Mount. On behalf of everyone at MWCC congratulations, and best wishes for a fruitful and rewarding career."

Dr. Kimberly Shea, DNP, RN, director of nursing told students, "I am so proud of you for the hurdles you have all gone through, from postponing clinicals, to transitioning to online learning, you rose to the occasion and will carry the resiliency skills you have learned through your careers."

"We come from different countries, upbringings, and backgrounds, but we all have similar goals. We are all striving to be more. Each of us is here to accomplish the same thing, to become an extraordinary nurse," noted student speaker, Caitlin Aubin.

The 29 new practical nurses ready to serve the communities are: Angela Amoah of Worcester, Caitlin Aubin of

Gardner – student speaker, Mackenzie Bailey of Leominster, Rylie Faulkner of Gardner, Fayola Fryer of Fitchburg, Lindsey Healy of Winchendon, Jamie Howson of Townsend, Hamid Kasule of Billerica, Payengcha Lee of Fitchburg, Brianna Lewis of Littleton, Marcilia Lyman of Orange, Zoeth Magembe of Leominster, Danielle Mujiambi of Worcester, Kizito Ronald Mwesigwa of Worcester, Ruth Charity Njaaga of Worcester, Brittany Noonan of Westminister, Diana Okongo of Leominster, Amanda Parra of Leominster, Trisha Race of Winchendon, Tracey Redkey of Westminister, Ashley Shaw of Orange, Jessy Silvera of Fitchburg, Mysti Stone of Baldwinville, Dianna Mzabi of Fitchburg, Sarah Townsend of Leominster, Eric Weeks-Paige of Fitchburg, Cheyenne Whittemore of Townsend, Sophy Yim of Dracut and Esther Young of Lunenburg.

## HCC spring session classes to start in February and March

HOLYOKE –The spring 2021 semester officially began at Holyoke Community College Monday, Jan. 25, but prospective students still have two more opportunities to start classes in February and March.

Spring session II classes begin Tuesday, Feb. 16. Spring start III classes begin Monday, March 29.

"HCC introduced two 'Flexible Fall' start dates last semester to accommodate students as they adjusted to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and they were very popular," said Mark Hudgik, HCC's director of admissions. "We decided to continue this spring with two flexible start dates for students, who may not have been ready on Jan. 25."

Feb. 16-start classes run for 12 weeks. March 29-start classes run for seven. All spring semester courses conclude by Wednesday, May 12.

Students, who enroll for spring session II or III, have the opportunity to take a variety of different classes in a wide array of academic areas and can earn as many as four credits per course for a lab science such as biolo-

gy or forensic science.

These accelerated spring courses are being offered in anatomy and physiology, anthropology, biology, communication, culinary arts, Earth science, education, engineering, English, English as a Second Language, forensic science, history, human services, marketing, math, medical assisting, nutrition, philosophy, political science, psychology, social science and sociology.

With the exception of culinary arts and medical assisting classes, which include in-person on-campus components, all spring session II and III classes are either fully online or "blended remote," which means they include both asynchronous lessons and real-time virtual instruction.

A full list of classes for spring session II and III can be viewed at [hcc.edu/spring](http://hcc.edu/spring).

For more information or to apply, people may go to [hcc.edu/apply](http://hcc.edu/apply), call 413-552-2321, send an email to [admissions@hcc.edu](mailto:admissions@hcc.edu) or go to the HCC website ([hcc.edu](http://hcc.edu)) and click on the "Chat Now" box.

## HCC, GCC, Elms College presidents receive national recognition

REGION – The presidents of Holyoke Community College, Greenfield Community College and Elms College have been recognized for outstanding leadership in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion by the Association of American Colleges and Universities and the education technology company Cengage.

HCC president Christina Royal, GCC president Yves Salomon-Fernández and Our Lady of the Elms president Harry E. Dumay were among 13 college presidents nationwide to receive the AAC&U-Cengage Inclusion Scholarship. The scholarship recognizes college and university presidents, whose outstanding leadership to advance liberal education has resulted in reduced equity gaps, improved inclusion and belonging for minoritized students, and reformed hiring practices to promote greater diversity.

The recipients were announced Friday, Jan. 22, at the AAC&U Presidents' Trust Symposium, part of the AAC&U Virtual Annual Meeting. The Presidents' Trust Symposium brings together higher education leaders from all institutional types to explore the most pressing issues facing colleges and universities and to share strategies for success.

"AAC&U is proud to recognize and support these exceptional leaders in their efforts to advance equity and quality as hallmarks of a liberal education across a diverse range of campuses and student populations," said AAC&U president Lynn Pasquerella.

The AAC&U-Cengage Inclusion Scholarship recognizes higher education leaders, who support and advance quality, equity, and student success in undergraduate education. This includes improving degree completion or transfer for students from underrepresented groups; closing equity gaps in student success; improving diversity in hiring practices and creating more equitable hiring policies; and increasing the sense of belonging, well-being, and inclusion among students from historically underserved populations (e.g., racial and ethnic minorities, religious minorities, and LGBTQIA students).

In recognition of their accomplishments, the AAC&U-Cengage Inclusion Scholarship recipients will each receive a one-year, complimentary AAC&U campus membership and a one-year complimentary membership in the AAC&U Presidents' Trust, a diverse network of chief executive officers who are committed to advancing the vision, values, and practices that connect liberal education with the needs of an increasingly diverse student body, a global workforce, and thriving communities. The Trust provides members with access to dedicated resources and events as well as exclusive opportunities to promote their thought leadership.

## Fitchburg State awarded grant for Community Safety Initiatives

HOLYOKE – Not long ago, Aidan Burke was working in a local supermarket, making pizza for minimum wage. It was not a job he believed held much promise for him.

Life has changed a lot since then for the 29-year-old Northampton resident.

In February, Burke started a free, intensive cybersecurity training program for people with disabilities offered by Holyoke Community College and the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. Ten months later, he is now poised to begin a career as a cybersecurity analyst.

Already, Burke has started an internship with NetWerks Strategic Services, an Agawam-based technology company. In recent weeks, he has interviewed for full-time benefitted positions at the Massachusetts Educational Collaborative and the Department of Youth Services. He is also a candidate for a summer internship with MassMutual.

Burke and his 14 classmates completed the Cisco Academy Cybersecurity Training program on Dec. 10. They graduated Dec. 18, having passed their exams as Cisco Certified Network Associates and Cisco Certified Cyber-Operations Associates.

The HCC-MRC cybersecurity training program was the first of its kind in the state. Based on the success of the pilot, MRC initiated a second program in September in collaboration with Roxbury Community College and has begun recruiting for a second class at HCC that will begin in February.

For the first month of training, classes met in the cybersecurity lab in HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development. In March, though, they moved onto Zoom as COVID-19 forced a shift to remote instruction. HCC and MRC provided laptops for students to use at home, and Cisco provided access to online simulation platforms that mimicked the "hands-on" parts of the training.

Students qualified for the program through their involvement with MRC. Burke was recommended by his caseworker. Candidates were screened and then took an entrance exam to make sure they could handle the material and the workload.

Classes met four days a week, Monday through Thursday from about 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Singh said the

students were also required to put in several hours of additional self-study on Fridays.

Cybersecurity analysts are network watchdogs, monitoring network activity, tracking alerts, guarding against cyberattacks and looking out for abnormal network behavior. They fix security problems, restore compromised systems, pinpoint conflicts, and collect evidence of criminal activity in the event of an intentional breach or legal proceeding.

"Cyber crime is up 600 percent due to the pandemic," HCC president Christina Royal said Friday during a graduation ceremony held over Zoom. There are a lot of bad actors looking to exploit network vulnerabilities with costs estimated at \$6 trillion in 2021. Cybersecurity is an important area that companies are needing and investing in."

Program graduates qualify for jobs as tier 1 cybersecurity analysts. Although that is considered entry level, they can still expect to earn between \$25 and \$35 an hour to start and up to \$80,000 to \$100,000 or more a year as they advance.

Beyond the training itself, students in the program received a \$200 stipend for general expenses, career counseling and assistance with job placement.

Like many of his classmates, Burke has struggled with a number of issues, including anxiety as well as depression, PTSD and ADHD. "Just a tough combination of things," he said, that made it tough at times just to get out of bed in the morning.

Burke said he's grateful to Mass Rehab for recommending him for the program and for putting him in a class with others who shared and understood his struggles. It was a big confidence builder for all of them.

## COLLEGE DEAN'S AND PRESIDENT'S LISTS

### Springfield College recognizes dean's list students for fall semester

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College recognizes dean's list students for the 2020 fall semester.

Local students making the dean's list are Chadwyck Hayden of Ware, Connor Dubzinski of Rutland,

Samuel Coppolino from Oakham, Hannah Schultz of North Brookfield, Rachel Vinton of Rutland and Joseph Leazott from Barre.

The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

Hayden has a primary major of computer and information sciences, Dubzinski has a primary major of criminal justice. Coppolino has a primary major of health science and pre-physical therapy. Schultz has a primary major of health science/occupational therapy. Vinton has a primary major of physical education.

Leazott has a primary major of sport management.

### Saint Anselm College announces dean's list

MANCHESTER, NH – Saint Anselm College announces the dean's list of high academic achievers for the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year. To be eligible for this honor, a student must have achieved a grade point average of 3.4 or better in the semester with at least 12 credits of study which award a letter grade.

Dominique Engle, a psychology major and class of 2022 and Jacob P. Nadeau, a criminal justice and class of 2024, both of Rutland made the fall dean's list.

### Mikaela Gresty makes deans' list at Bryant University

SMITHFIELD, R.I. – Bryant University recognizes the students, who have demonstrated an

unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement. Mikaela Gresty of Ware and a member of the class of 2021, made the deans' list for the fall 2020 semester.

### Taeva Cohen makes Connecticut College dean's list

NEW LONDON, CONN. – Taeva Cohen of Hubbardston and a member of the class of 2021, has been named to the Connecticut College dean's list for the 2020 fall semester, achieving dean's high honors. Cohen is a biological sciences major.

### Becker College announces dean's list for fall 2020

WORCESTER – Becker College announces the dean's list for the fall 2020 semester. Local students making the fall 2020 dean's list are: Margaret Brooks of Hubbardston, an integrated graphic design and media major; Andrew George of Rutland, an interactive media design, game design major; Garrett Sheridan of Barre, an interactive media design, game development and programming major; Kylie Bulger of North Brookfield, an equine studies major; Elizabeth Jardine of Rutland, a nursing major and Jordan Viess of Ware, a veterinary science, veterinary technology major.

The dean's list recognizes all full-time students (24 or more credit hours earned for the academic year; 12 minimum each semester (September through May), whose term grade point average is 3.50 or higher with no grade below a B- and no incomplete (I) or withdrawal/failing (WF) grades.

### MWCC announces fall president's and deans' lists

GARDNER – Mount Wachusett Community College announces the dean's and president's lists for the fall 2020 semester. Students who complete a minimum of 12 semester hours are eligible. The dean's list requires a 3.30 to 3.99 grade point average while the president's list requires a 4.0 grade point average.

Local students making president's list are: Gemma Gabrielli of Barre; Maddison Willigar of Gilbertville; Rebecca Cronin, Charlotte Hobby and Andrea Techera, all of Hubbardston; Phoebe Burch of Petersham and Allison Kane of Rutland.

Local students making the dean's list are: Michael Flood and Gabrielle Walker, both of Barre; Ariana Giardina, Joely McKelvie, Angelina Ovitt, Alexandra Ramos and Kevin Techera, all of Hubbardston; Rachael Orsi of North Brookfield; Oakham: Laurie Boutin, Lindsey Lessore and Shaye McKeen, all of Oakham; Kelly Kilcoyne of Rutland and Olivia Mooney of Ware.

### Rachel Rathbun makes Cedarville University dean's list

CEDARVILLE, OHIO – Cedarville University recently released the fall 2020 dean's honor list. This recognition required Rachel Rathbun of Hubbardston to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hour

### University of New Hampshire announces fall dean's list

DURHAM, N.H. – The University of New Hampshire announce the dean's for the fall 2020 semester.

Kayla Fletcher of New Braintree, Lauren Fletcher of New Braintree and Rachael Hickey of Rutland earned highest honors. Jasmine Rocheleau of Petersham and Ryan May of Rutland earned high honors.

Thomas Heath of Hubbardston earned honors.

Students named to the dean's list at the University of New Hampshire are students, who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students, who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students, whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64, are awarded honors.

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# Where is this?



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This week’s mystery photo is from Rutland. If any readers know where this photo was taken, they may email [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or call the Barre Gazette at 413-967-3505, extension 100 with their answer by noon on Monday, Feb. 8. The names of those that correctly guessed the location will appear in next week’s edition. Dick Clark, Stephen Craven, Alan Harty, Sue Harty, Barbara Kempski, Evelyn Luukko, Bruce Towner, Jeremy Varnum and Phillip Warbasse correctly identified the photo. Last week’s photo was the Petersham hearse house located in the cemetery on South Main Street, Petersham.

## RAIL PLAN, continued from page 1

businesses, and visitors with mobility to satisfy their economic, personal and recreational needs. Passenger rail transportation can be an important component of a multi-modal transportation system that increases travel options and reduces greenhouse gas emissions,” the report states.

The report also says that “Fast and frequent passenger rail service in the East-West Rail Corridor could enhance mobility and connectivity for Corridor communities, provide residents and stakeholders with additional travel options, and catalyze new economic opportunities, such as development around stations. Improved connectivity among job centers and better mobility for potential workers could increase employment opportunities for workers and expand the talent pool available to employers by better linking the western, central, and eastern regions of the Commonwealth with each other and with a broader travel market.”

There are three final alternatives in the study, which carries the weight of a \$1 million investment by the state and does back up at least some of the advocates’ claims of the benefits the rail line would provide. All of the alternatives include depots in Palmer and Springfield.

Still, it did not offer the robust endorsement some hoped for.

“It’s not what we wanted, but it didn’t close the door,” Hood said.

### What’s next

Now, he said, the committee needs to focus on “thinking about how this affects Palmer.”

Committee member and Palmer Town Planner Linda Leduc aren’t completely satisfied, but she took away some positives.

“It’s an interesting study,” she said.

“It was limited in scope [but] it needed to be done to gets us to the next phase of engineering and construction. MassDOT is trying to move us out of the planning stage. In Palmer, we did all the things we needed to do to get in all the alternatives, which is a great result.”

Like others, Leduc contests the study’s estimate of ridership and said it’s critical to present accurate numbers that will allow the project to become eligible for federal funding – a high bar. She remains convinced MassDOT does not project a realistic figure and that taking a second look – as MassDOT calls for in the study – will reveal a more favorable cost benefit assessment.

“One thing I thought was interesting is this traditional assessment did not include an extensive look into cost benefit,” Leduc said.

“The position of the state to better itself with the federal calculation – which we fall very short of getting any federal money – we need to raise that. We have a true benefit from the rail stop that can [improve] that calculation.”

### Costs

Costing upwards of \$1 billion, the project is likely to face steep opposition by state and federal

budget hawks, necessitating the need, Leduc and other committee members said, to lobby lawmakers who have not already pledged their support. U.S. Rep. Richard Neal said he’s for creating the passenger line. Leduc and Hood both noted that President Joe Biden could be a likely ally.

Unlike assistance with road and air projects, municipal rail construction is not typically earmarked for federal funding, Leduc said.

### Legislative support

“Not a single state in the country gets federal assistance for a rail project,” she said. “The only way to get federal funding is to get an increase in our benefit cost and potentially get that federal calculation viewed differently. Cost will be a big problem moving forward. We need to have conversations with our federal legislators. Joe Biden historically has been supportive of rail, so that’s all good.”

Hood agreed.

“I think our politicians will be important in this,” he said.

So far, so good.

“All of our representatives in the western part of the state and even further west, are hot on this issue,” Leduc said.

Both of them credited state Senators Eric Lesser and Anne Gobi and Mass. House Rep. Todd Smola for their support. Committee members agreed on the need to remain proactive.

After the study was released earlier this month, Lesser issued a statement in which he called the

# Gobi fights for changes to COVID vaccination sign-up system

BOSTON — Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) took a pair of actions recently in reaction to the start of phase two in the state’s COVID-19 vaccination plan, which is set to open up to vaccinate individuals 75+ starting Feb. 1. With the announcement made on Tuesday, Jan. 26 the Commonwealth would be moving into the second phase of the program, many waited eagerly at the online portals set up by the state to take their place in line only to be frustrated by a lack of available appointments and a system, which seemed to put the burden on constituents to stay vigilant as they worked to find appointments from multiple sites.

Hearing concerns from her constituents, Gobi immediately set to circulate a letter amongst her legislative colleagues expressing

issue with the barriers the online system was creating for the older population and those with limited access to technology and imploring the Administration to develop a user friendly 1-800 number and a centralized system under the COVID-19 Task Force to allow Massachusetts residents to access the sign up process in an easier fashion. The letter received bipartisan support from 25 state senators and 61 representatives, each of whom had heard the same difficulties in their own districts.

While the current appointment system has created mass confusion and anxiety as seniors eligible for Phase 2 vaccinations are asked to navigate a complex web of internet links and appointment slots, this new portal would simplify and standardize the process statewide for booking appointments and

allow a phone-based system for seniors, who lack access or familiarity with technology.

Governor Baker spoke Thursday, Jan. 28 on the issues many faced, pledging to set up a call center for COVID-19 vaccination appointments next week, but providing minimal details on the timing or capacity it may have. While Gobi welcomed the implementation of such a system she reiterated it should have been anticipated and put in place from the start. She said she would continue to work on behalf of the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable citizens to ensure they will be able to receive the vaccine in a timely and expedient manner. For more information on the actions taken this week, people may contact Senator Gobi’s office via email at [Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov](mailto:Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov).

new one, she suggested.

“The station that I’m in right now – is that something that can be discussed?” Lamothe asked,

“We haven’t been able to get down to those nitty gritty details,” Leduc said. “Is it time? I think it could be. It might be time for the town to spend some money to [study and] narrow down the best location.”

“As far as location of the platform, that’s something the town and engineers have to figure out,” Anne Miller said. “It can go a lot of different ways. Palmer may not be in position to do that. I think working out the location is something we need to do in advance so the federal government doesn’t come in and say ‘no, it should go here.’”

Miller is amenable to creating a Palmer depot in or around the old one and noted the Steaming Tender, opened by Lamothe’s parents, acquired property around the restaurant.

“I think that should be part of the conversation,” Miller said.

“This is something I think we need to put together soon – ASAP,” Lamothe said.

“We have to show MassDOT we’re ready for this. They don’t know our town. We have to put it in place for them and say here’s the solution and maybe give them a second option.”

Palmer Town Council President Lorinda Baker, who also serves on the committee, said east-west rail advocates might have an inside track with the Biden administration – Buttigieg. She said she heard the former mayor of South

Bend, Ind., who ran for president in 2020, is at least an acquaintance, if not a friend, of Lesser.

Lesser referenced Buttigieg in his statement:

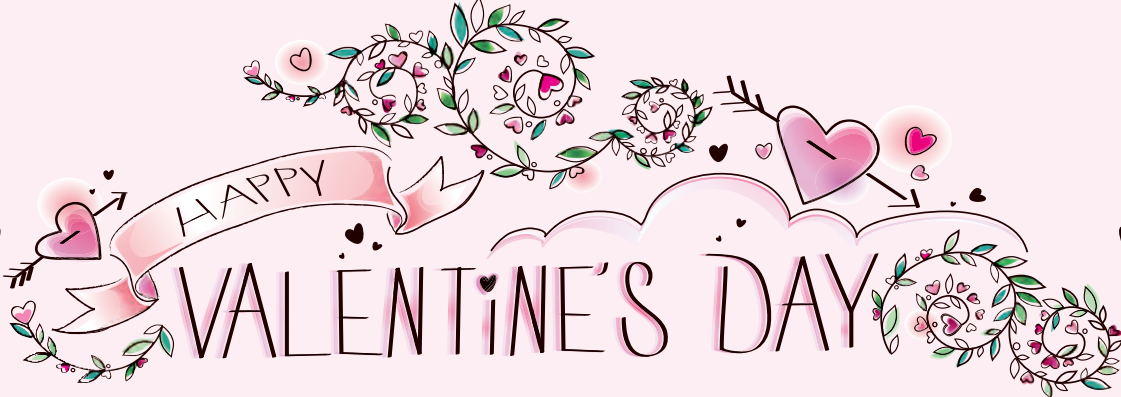
“The study comes at the right moment given President-Elect Biden’s long history of infrastructure advocacy, and his passion for train transportation in particular, along with his nominee to be Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg,” Lesser said.

### Setting priorities

While the study presents various scenarios of how and where actual construction would begin, the committee members all agree that the Springfield phase should get priority. The study itself called it a “worthwhile starting point.” Hood and Miller sent a letter recently to Baker and Mass. Secretary of Transportation Stephanie Pollack asking for it.

“Indeed the need for expanded rail service between the three largest cities in the Commonwealth should take priority, especially when there is almost no train service at present between two of them,” they said in the letter.

“This first phase of a phased approach to East-West passenger rail would address the greatest need, which is to connect Springfield to Worcester and Boston. This first phase would have an added advantage that it could utilize the detailed work already done as part of the NNEIRI study, as well as the findings and recommendations of the East-West Passenger Rail Study.”



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## Panthers squeak out victory at home

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BARRE—A good basketball team always seems to find a way to win a game, especially on those nights when they don't play very well. A perfect example is the Quabbin girls varsity team.

The Panthers, who struggled offensively and had several players in foul trouble, managed to squeak out a 34-30 home victory over the Oakmont Spartans, last Monday night, Jan. 25.

"I am really proud of how the girls fought through adversity with all of our foul trouble," said Quabbin head coach Evan Barringer. "Things didn't go the way we wanted but we fought through it. A character-building win."

The Panthers, who improved their season record to 3-1, returned home after posting a 43-33 victory at Fitchburg High School in their previous game.

"I was really concerned about having a letdown because we played extremely well at Fitchburg last week," Barringer added. "That was a great win and we came out a little bit flat in the first quarter of tonight's game."

Both squads committed numerous turnovers during the first half of last Monday's contest.

"We haven't learned how to handle the basketball or how to handle pressure yet," Barringer added. "Our defense did do a good job of forcing turnovers, but we had too many turnovers ourselves. We have a lot of things that we still need to work on."

Quabbin's leading scorer in the first meeting of the regular season against the Spartans was sophomore guard Olivia Rose, who scored all seven of her points during the first half.

Rose began the contest by banking home a 3-pointer from the top of the key. The Panthers' only



Julia Hamel is one of several returning players for the Panthers this season.

other points in the opening quarter were a pair of made free throws by senior forward Kacie McCreadie, which wound up being her only points of the game. The free throws gave the Panthers a slim 5-4 lead with 6:17 remaining in the first quarter.

Quabbin, who was trailing, 7-5 entering the second stanza, tied the score following a steal and a lay-up



The Quabbin High School girls basketball team is not playing in front of a crowd this season, but are getting some games in.

basket by Rose.

With 3:35 left in the first half, an inside hoop by Quabbin freshman forward Riley Bassett (6 points) tied the score at 9-9. Then two made free throws by Rose gave the Panthers a two-point lead.

The Panthers, who made 6 of 10 free throw attempts during the second quarter, held a 15-12 halftime advantage.

## Pathfinder has yet to take the court



File photos

Pathfinder, without a home court, still has not been able to play a game this winter.

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

PALMER — Pathfinder Regional High School remains without a home court, and so far without an abbreviated season to play as teams have begun the winter season.

Palmer High School, also was supposed to begin playing, but also has yet to play a game.

Both schools have been restricted from playing games due to the teams they are scheduled to play against.

Pathfinder Athletic Director

Joseph Baldyga has said the school is not allowed to play schools in other communities that are currently in the red, or high-risk category.

Pathfinder was supposed to open up the season with both boys and girls playing games on the road at Ware High School.

Ware remains in the red despite lowering positive test numbers for COVID-19. Those games were postponed in the first week of the season, and Pathfinder also did not

See PATHFINDERL, page 10

## MASCAC cancels 'fall in spring' competition

WESTFIELD — The Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) announced today that the eight MASCAC Presidents made the difficult decision to cancel the fall in spring semester athletic conference competition, including all indoor and outdoor athletic conference competition. The decision ends the possibility of resuming the fall conference competition during the spring of 2021 but will allow fall and winter student-athletes training opportunities. While there will not be a conference schedule for MASCAC fall sports, member institutions will be allowed to schedule fall sport non-conference games at their discretion.

"The MASCAC office has been meeting regularly with the presidents, athletic directors, athletic trainers and other essential staff to consider ways we can bring our student-athletes back to the playing field safely while adhering to all state, federal and NCAA guidelines," said MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. "Regrettably, the highly contagious nature of the COVID-19 virus and the risk of community spread through conference competition proved too great a risk to our

student-athletes to engage in conference play. With the health and well-being of our student-athletes and our staff as our priority, the difficult decision was made to cancel the fall in spring MASCAC competition," Baumann said.

Although fall MASCAC competition has been canceled, the state universities will continue to provide student-athletes with on-campus, in-person practices, conditioning, and training opportunities during the spring semester in order to support their physical and mental well-being. These practice and training opportunities will not use a year of NCAA Eligibility and will be done in compliance with campus, state and federal COVID guidance and protocols.

"The MASCAC Presidents know the value of intercollegiate athletics to our campus community and how important sports are to our student-athletes. The news that we need to cancel the fall conference competition is understandably disappointing, but the health and safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance," said Massachusetts College of Liberal

See MASCAS, page 10

## Thompson announces opening weekend events

WATERBURY, Conn. — American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) officials have announced the slate of racing for the 46th Thompson Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday April 11. The 82nd season opener at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park currently consists of a nine-division card highlighted by the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series.

The event marks the return of the historic season kick-off after a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Icebreaker was first held in 1974 and has become a staple of the Northeast motorsports calendar. It includes two days of racing with an optional Test N' Tune on Friday, April 9.

All five of Thompson Speedway's local divisions join the Outlaw Open Modified Series on the card. This includes the Sunoco Modifieds, ACT-type Late Models, Limited Sportsmen/8-cylinder Street Stocks, SK Light Modifieds, and Mini Stocks. Laps for each division are to be determined. The purses for these divisions will be similar to those at the Thompson Speedway events ACT and PASS promoted in 2020.



Submitted photo

The Icebreaker 125 will kick off Thompson Speedway's race season.

The PASS Super Late Models headline the Saturday portion of Icebreaker Weekend with a 75-lap event. It is the fifth straight Icebreaker featuring PASS, joining the 2016-2019 editions. PASS holds their first event of the year in the Northeast after opening the season with a pair of events at North Carolina's Hickory Motor Speedway.

The NEMA Lites of the Northeastern Midget Association, who are longtime Thompson Speedway supporters, return for another showing at the Icebreaker. The EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge rounds out the card. Both series were slated to be part of the 2020 Icebreaker before its

cancellation.

Officials are finalizing the full schedule for each day. More information regarding schedules, pricing, and ticketing will be announced over the coming weeks.

"We have something for everyone at the Icebreaker," PASS president Tom Mayberry said. "It's important to start the season with a bang, and we've put together a line-up to do just that. We know a lot of people are looking forward to the Outlaw Open Modified Series debut, but there's plenty of other action planned for fans of both open-wheel and full-fender racing."

Entries are already pouring in for the 125-lap Outlaw Open main

event. Two of the biggest names on the list are Franklin, MA's Bobby Santos III and Milford, CT's Doug Coby. Santos has posted four career Tour-type Modified victories at Thompson Speedway and six at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. He recently triumphed in the famed Little 500 for Sprint Cars at Indiana's Anderson Speedway. Coby is a six-time champion of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour with six victories at Thompson.

Other notable Modified standouts on the early entry list include former Modified Racing Series and, International Supermodified Association Champion Jon McKennedy, former NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Series National Champion Keith Rocco, 2011 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Champion Ronnie Silk, and Mike Christopher Jr., the winner of the Budweiser Modified Open at last October's World Series of Speedway Racing. They'll be joined by Northeast household names such as Matt Swanson, Eric Goodale, Andy Shaw, Carl Medeiros Jr., and Dan Meservy.

A limited amount of garage

See RACING, page 10

## Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION — The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire

and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quiltthunter@comcast.net.

## Pioneers to hold Pelham clinic

LUDLOW — Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. The second sessions available.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session. Sessions will consist

of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the players' safety).

### SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15

Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.

Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

## New umpires needed for 2021 season

REGION — The Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpire Association is looking for individuals who are interested in umpiring baseball at the high school and youth level. The WMBUA services high school baseball and various other leagues in the Greater Springfield area/ Hampden County.

The WMBUA's first year members class will be held for roughly five to six weeks, beginning in February. The class dates right now are fluid as the organization monitors what happens with the COVID-

19 pandemic. Class is usually one or two nights per week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The class takes place in the First Baptist Church of East Longmeadow's classrooms at 50 Parker Street. Classes may also be virtual if COVID-19 does not allow for in-person meetings.

If you are interested in taking the classes, contact Chris Meffen, the WMBUA Secretary, via email at cmeffen8017@gmail.com or visit the WMBUA website at http://wmbua.org.



# Public Safety

## Barre Police Log

<p><b>Monday, Jan. 25</b> 3 p.m. Harassment Main Street – Officer Spoke to Party 5:38 p.m. Death Notification Peach Street – Negative Contact</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Jan. 26</b> 4:55 a.m. Sick/Unknown Peach Street – Referred to Other Agency 12:45 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Summer Street – Transported to Hospital 1:45 p.m. Harassing/Annoying Phone Calls Varney Lane – Officer Spoke to Party 1:46 p.m. Vandalism Broad Street – Officer Spoke to Party 11:41 p.m. Abandoned Vehicle/</p>	<p>Parking Issues Exchange Street – Services Rendered</p> <p><b>Wednesday, Jan. 27</b> 10:29 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision Hit and Run South Barre Road – Negative Contact Summons: Nicole M. Maznick, 33, South Barre Leave Scene of Property Damage</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan. 28</b> 12:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Citation Issued 1:13 p.m. Heat/Cold Environmental Main Street – Transported to Hospital 1:40 p.m. Suspicious Activity Main Street – Report Filed</p>	<p>2:04 p.m. Falls Circle Road – Transported to Hospital 3:26 p.m. Fraud/Forgery West Street – Officer Spoke to Party</p> <p><b>Friday, Jan. 29</b> 10:18 a.m. Sick/Unknown South Street – Ambulance Signed Refusal</p> <p><b>Saturday, Jan. 30</b> 3:19 p.m. Sick/Unknown South Street – Transported to Hospital</p>
<p><b>SOUTH BARRE</b></p> <p><b>Monday, Jan. 25</b> 2:08 p.m. Larceny/Theft North Brookfield Road – Officer Advised</p>		

## Hubbardston Police Log

<p><b>Sunday, Jan. 24</b> 10:10 a.m. Fire, Arcing Wires Ed Clark Road – Fire Extinguished 4:03 p.m. Recreational Vehicle Complaint Pitcherville Road – Citation Issued</p> <p><b>Monday, Jan. 25</b> 11:33 a.m. Suspicious Activity Williamsville Road – Officer Spoke to Party</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Jan. 26</b> 4:10 p.m. Sick/Unknown Ragged Hill Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal 6:05 p.m. Neighbor Dispute Brigham Street – Report Filed</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Jan. 27</b> 8:29 a.m. Fraud/Forgery Laurel Street – Officer Spoke to Party 3:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Williamsville Road – Criminal Complaint Summons: Fred R. Bard, 47, Gardner License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With 9:30 p.m. Serve Warrant Main Street – Arrest(s) Made Arrest: David R. Crino, 25, Hubbardston Warrant</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan. 28</b> 1:10 a.m. Sick/Unknown Ragged</p>	<p>Hill Road – Referred to Other Agency 11:56 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Vehicle Towed</p> <p><b>Friday, Jan. 29</b> 7:33 a.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued 4:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Criminal Complaint Summons: Ashton B. Lyddy, 29, Worcester License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With 7:10 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Gardner Road – Citation Issued</p> <p><b>Saturday, Jan. 30</b> 1:54 p.m. Sick/Unknown Natty Brook Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal</p>
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## Hardwick Police Log

<p>During the week of Jan. 25-Feb. 1, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 81 building/property checks, 22 directed/area patrols, 9 radar assignments, 16 traffic controls, 9 emergency 911 calls, 1 motor vehicle accident and 6 motor vehicle stops in the town of Hardwick.</p> <p><b>Monday, Jan. 25</b> 9:01 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital 6:19 p.m. Phone – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Jan. 26</b> 5:37 a.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Written Warning 3:01 p.m. Other – Complaint Main Street – Taken/Referred to Other Agency 3:44 p.m. 911 – Medical</p>	<p>Emergency Bridge Street – Transported to Hospital 5:27 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Accident Main Street – Services Rendered</p> <p><b>Wednesday, Jan. 27</b> 3:51 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital 2:14 p.m. 911 – Trespass Church Lane – Spoken To 4:41 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Main Street – Citation Issued</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan. 28</b> 2:32 p.m. 911 – Trespass Church Lane – Negative Contact</p> <p><b>Friday, Jan. 29</b> 4:43 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Written Warning 5:25 p.m. Phone – Disturbance Church Lane – Services Rendered</p>	<p><b>Saturday, Jan. 30</b> 7:31 a.m. 911 – Hang-up Call Greenwich Road – Spoken To 9:55 a.m. 911 – Misdiial Hardwick Road – Dispatch Handled 12:25 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Old Petersham Road – Transported to Hospital 2:25 p.m. Phone – Fire Alarm Old Petersham Road – Services Rendered 3:44 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Hardwick Road – Citation Issued 4:08 p.m. Initiated – Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Road – Citation Issued</p> <p><b>Sunday, Jan. 31</b> 9:19 a.m. Phone – Stolen Motor Vehicle Barre Road – Services Rendered</p> <p><b>Monday, Feb. 1</b> 7:18 a.m. Initiated – Snow Ban/ Parking Violation Barre Road – Citation Issued</p>
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## Oakham Police Log

<p><b>Sunday, Jan. 24</b> 9:28 a.m. Sick/Unknown Old Turnpike Road – Transported to Hospital 5:43 p.m. Suspicious Person/ Vehicle Robinson Road – Investigated 9:37 p.m. Stolen Vehicle Sanders Road – Report Filed</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Jan. 26</b> 9:02 p.m. Traffic Hazard Old Turnpike Road – Vehicle Removed</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Jan. 27</b> 1:12 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Worcester Road – Vehicle Towed Summons: Ashley M. Murray, 33, Auburn Inspection/Sticker, No; Uninsured Motor Vehicle; Speeding; Unregistered Motor Vehicle 5:19 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems Edson Road – Transported to Hospital</p>	<p><b>Friday, Jan. 29</b> 6:30 p.m. Falls Hunt Road – Transported to Hospital</p> <p><b>Sunday, Jan. 31</b> 12:23 a.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire North Brookfield Road – Prisoner Bailed Arrest: Arthur C. Fontaine, 62, North Brookfield OUI-Liquor or .08%; Stop/Yield, Fail to; Marked Lanes Violation; Negligent Operation of Motor Vehicle</p>
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## Rutland Police Log

<p><b>Sunday, Jan. 24</b> 9:28 a.m. Sick/Unknown Old Turnpike Road – Transported to Hospital 4:56 p.m. Harassment Highland Park Road – Report Filed</p> <p><b>Monday, Jan. 25</b> 1:20 a.m. Motor Vehicle Pursuit Maple Avenue – Referred to Other Agency 12:31 p.m. Breaking and Entering Past Auto/Motor Vehicle Pleasantdale Road – Report Filed 2:33 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Autumn Wood Drive – Report Filed 3:10 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Autumn Wood Drive – Officer Advised 4:25 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Maple Avenue – Arrest(s) Made Arrest: Jake A. Robbins, 21, Millsbury License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Alcohol in Motor Vehicle; Possess Open Container of; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class D; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class B; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class B; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class E; Drug, Possess to Distribute Class E</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, Jan. 26</b> 9:34 a.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems Main Street – Transported to Hospital 11:04 a.m. Harassing/Annoying Phone Calls Main Street – Message Delivered 2:19 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Pleasantdale Road – Report Filed 3:57 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Main Street – Report Filed</p> <p><b>Wednesday, Jan. 27</b> 6:25 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Maple Avenue – Vehicle Towed 12:28 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Citation Issued 1:38 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Citation Issued 2:12 p.m. Harassing/Annoying Phone Calls Pommogussett Road – Officer Spoke to Party 3:18 p.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Brintnal Drive – Report Filed 4:28 p.m. Fraud/Forgery Jackson Avenue – Report Filed 5:19 p.m. Chest Pain/Heart Problems Edson Road – Transported to Hospital 8:58 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre</p>	<p>Paxton Road – Written Warning</p> <p><b>Thursday, Jan. 28</b> 8:35 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop Barre Paxton Road – Written Warning</p> <p><b>Friday, Jan. 29</b> 2:15 p.m. Motor Vehicle Collision/ Fire Main Street – Vehicle Towed 5:24 p.m. Threats Valley View Circle – Officer Spoke to Party 6:03 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Criminal Complaint Summons: Michael J. Thibodeau, 36, West Boylston License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With; Lights Violation, Motor Vehicle; Seat Belt, Fail Wear 6:30 p.m. Falls Hunt Road – Transported to Hospital</p> <p><b>Saturday, Jan. 30</b> 2:40 p.m. Motor Vehicle Stop East County Road – Arrest(s) Made Arrest: Michael J. Thibodeau, 36, West Boylston License Suspended, Operate Motor Vehicle With, Subsequent Offense 6:30 p.m. Diabetic Central Tree Road – Ambulance Signed Refusal</p>
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## New Braintree Police Log

<p>During the week of Jan. 25-Feb. 1, the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department responded to 23 building/property checks, 31 directed/area patrols, 6 radar assignments, 9 traffic controls, 2 emergency 911 calls and 1 illegal dumping in the town of New Braintree.</p>	<p><b>Monday, Jan. 25</b> 3:04 p.m. Phone – Alarm Memorial Drive – Services Rendered</p> <p><b>Wednesday, Jan. 27</b> 10:45 a.m. Initiated – Illegal Dumping Oakham Road – Report Taken</p>	<p>11:59 a.m. 911 – Fire, Other Hardwick Road – Spoken To</p> <p><b>Friday, Jan. 29</b> 6:22 a.m. Phone – 911 Misdiial Worcester Road – Spoken To 9:32 a.m. Phone – Safety Hazard Barre Road – Spoken To</p>
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# Public Notices

<p><b>Town of Barre PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Host Community Agreement with High Hawk Farm, LLC</b> TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on <b>Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.</b> in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, Barre, MA for the purpose of reviewing an updated and amended Host Community Agreement proposal for a Marijuana Product Manufacturer license at 101 Daunt Road by High Hawk Farm, LLC. A full copy of the Host Community Agreement may be found at www.townofbarre.com. Persons wishing to comment may do so at that time. The Board will also consider written comments received prior to the hearing. This will be a <b>virtual meeting</b> in accordance with orders issued by the Governor during the current State of Emergency. There will be no in-person attendance by the public. Persons may attend and participate in the hearing by using the online <b>Zoom application at:</b> https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82619781437?pwd=RTk0OHF2b1pMQlZlKNTkRQVZCZ2lrQT09 or by calling: +1 312 626 6799 <b>Meeting ID:</b> 826 1978 1437, <b>Passcode:</b> 458956. For the Board of Selectmen: Jessica Sizer Town Administrator 02/04, 02/11/2021</p> <p><b>Town of Barre, MA Request for Qualifications: Fire Station Facility Study and Design Services</b> The Town of Barre is soliciting qualifications from designers to perform a facility study and provide design services for a new fire station. The Town is seeking a Designer to perform the following services, hereinafter referred to as Phase I Services: Develop a facility needs program for its fire department to accommodate current and projected assets and operational requirements. Conduct a site selection study to identify potential locations for a new fire station. Develop conceptual designs for a new fire station at the location of the current fire stations and each location identified in the site selection study. Perform a comparative analysis of the options identified above and provide suggestions to the Fire Station Building Committee. Seven (7) hardcopies plus one (1) electronic copy of proposals should be submitted with all information as required in this Request for Qualifications (Submission Requirements) and any supplementary materials, if desired, to the Town of Barre. Proposals shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked as <b>“Qualifications for Fire Station Facility Study and Design Services”</b> and addressed to Jessica Sizer, Town Administrator, 40 West Street, Barre, MA 01005, no later than <b>2:00 p.m. Thursday, February 18, 2021.</b> Questions regarding this RFQ may be directed to: Jessica Sizer, Town Administrator 40 West Street / Barre MA 01005 978-355-2504 ext. 101 jsizer@townofbarre.com 02/04, 02/11/2020</p> <p><b>(SEAL) COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket Number: 21 SM 000083 ORDER OF NOTICE</b></p>	<p>TO: Lester W. Paquin and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq.) U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee of the Tiki Series III Trust claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Barre, 120 Pleasant Street, given by Lester W. Paquin to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Wachusett Mortgage Corporation, dated January 28, 2008, and recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42376, Page 266, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the <u>active</u> military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property <u>on that basis</u>, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at <b>Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108</b> on or before <b>3/1/2021</b> or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 1/15/2021. Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder 02/04/2021</p> <p><b>(SEAL) THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF</b></p>	<p><b>THE TRIAL COURT 21 SM 000084 ORDER OF NOTICE</b> To: Charles M. Thompson and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) NewRez LLC, F/K/A New Penn Financial, LLC, D/B/A Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Barre, numbered 199 School Street N, given by Charles M. Thompson to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., dated August 24, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49607, Page 75 and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the <u>active</u> military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property <u>on that basis</u>, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at <b>Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108</b> on or before <b>March 8, 2021</b> or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on January 19, 2021. Attest: <b>Deborah J. Patterson</b> Recorder 02/04/2021</p>
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## QUABBIN GIRLS, continued from page 9

the Panthers lead to double digits for the first time.

The Panthers made a total of six field goals during the third quarter. They only made four field goals the rest of the game.

Holding a double-digit lead entering the final eight minutes of the contest turned out to be very important for the home team.

The Spartans, who were led by junior guard Rylee Barrieault with 15 points, outscored the Panthers,

## PATHFINDER, continued from page 9

play in any games during the past week, which could have included Palmer High School.

Palmer High School remains in limbo as well, with its two basketball games schedule to play teams like Pathfinder, Ware, and Ludlow, but all those games have been postponed.

While there is a limited window for teams to play games in what is considered the “winter” season, there is still plenty of time for Pathfinder to schedule and get up to 10 games in during the month of February.

The Fall 2 season, which should

## MASCAC, continued from page 9

Arts President James Birge, Chair of the MASCAC Council of Presidents. “These are unprecedented times and making the difficult decision to cancel fall conference competition is equally unprecedented. We will continue to monitor the facts and re-evaluate the status of athletics as information and data evolves,” said President Birge.

The MASCAC Presidents are hopeful that a spring sports season will occur and plan to announce their decision in February.

“We are disappointed conference competition couldn’t be pro-

12-5 during the fourth quarter.

With her team leading by four points (29-25) with a little more than five minutes remaining in regulation, Quabbin junior guard Jordyn Gillon (6 points) buried a 3-pointer from the top of the key. Junior center Ashley Leighton (4 points) made a pair of free throws a minute later.

The Spartans also made three free throws during the final two minutes of the game, but the visitors from Ashburnham, could not get any closer than four points.

Quabbin did play much better in the second meeting of the

regular season between the two squads three days later. After holding a commanding 22-5 lead, the Panthers, who made a total of 18 field goals, coasted to a 42-26 road victory. Leighton led the way offensively with a game-high 14 points. No other player on either team reached double digits. Quabbin freshman guard Meaghan Doyle chipped in with eight points and Hamel added six points.

The Panthers, who were scheduled to play another road game against Narragansett on Monday night, are slated to host the Warriors on Thursday night.

as of this week.

Other schools in the surrounding area have begun playing games, including Amherst Regional, which has a co-operative program for hockey with Palmer High School. Palmer players are actively playing with the Amherst team. The team has had a few games under its belt.

The MIAA website does not list many games for the Palmer or Pathfinder teams. Belchertown was also a team on Pathfinder’s schedule, but all games against the Orioles remain postponed.

Monson has made the move to play basketball during the Fall 2 season along with a number of other schools. Monson itself does not field a football team.

## RACING, continued from page 9

stalls are still available for Icebreaker weekend. These will be awarded to Outlaw Open Modified Series competitors in the order their entries are received.

The Icebreaker 125 is the opener of the new Outlaw Open Modified Series. The six-pack of big-money events concludes with the \$20,000-to-win Thompson 300 on October 9 and 10 as part of the 59th World Series of Speedway Racing. In between are four 75-lap events on Wednesday nights throughout the summer that will pay a minimum of \$5,000-to-win. Rules, entry forms, and other information for the Outlaw Open Modified Series is available at www.acttour.com/outlaw-open-modifieds or www.racedayct.com/thompson2021.



# BARRE GAZETTE

## ESTABLISHED EDITION

A SALUTE TO OUR BUSINESSES FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

The businesses in and around town remain the heartbeat of the community. Some are new, while others date back many generations. Turley Publications Inc. is happy to showcase them in the order of the year they were established. We hope you enjoy this special section.

## Coldbrook Springs known for 'healing'



Photo Courtesy of Oakham Historical Association  
C.H. Parker and Son General Store was located in the Coldbrook section of Oakham. Parker also owned a sawmill.

By Ellenor Downer  
Staff Writer

OAKHAM – The town of Oakham was known for its 'healing' springs, which were discovered in the mid 1800s.

There were seven iron springs and a sulfur spring. Advertisements in the Barre Gazette and other newspapers described how miraculous the waters of the springs were for rheumatism, arthritis, dyspepsia and skin diseases as well as inevitable ailments peculiar to women.

Tourists came from all over to benefit

from the "healing properties" of the springs. Businesses built around the springs. Inns such as the Coldbrook Hotel and the Coldbrook House sprang up to provide lodging. The Ware River branch of the Boston and Albany Railroad had a station on the Barre side of Coldbrook Springs. The Central Mass. branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad ran the first train on the Boston-Northampton line in December of 1887 and continued until the 1930s.

The town was incorporated June 7, 1762 as a Precinct of Rutland West Wing by an Act of the Great and General Court in his Majesty's Province of Massachusetts Bay in New



Photo Courtesy of Oakham Historical Association  
Workers are shown along with the baskets they made at the basket shop located in Coldbrook. All homes and businesses in Coldbrook, a village of Oakham, were dismantled or moved in the 1930's to form watershed for the Quabbin Reservoir.

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# ESTABLISHED EDITION

A SALUTE TO OUR BUSINESSES FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY





Photo Courtesy of Oakham Historical Association

The Coldbrook House was very popular in the 1880's. People came from all over to enjoy the "healing" of Coldbrook springs.

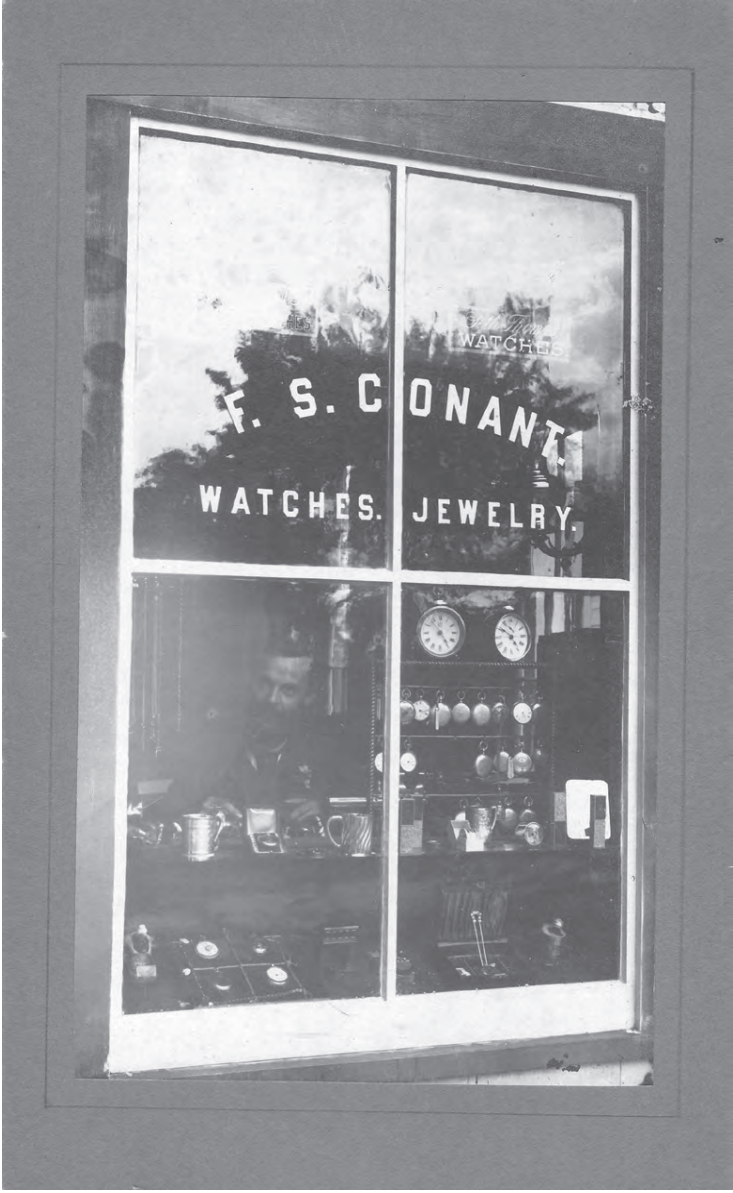



Photo Courtesy of Oakham Historical Association

As the sign in the window indicates F.S. Conant located on Maple Street, Oakham, sold watches and jewelry.

ESTABLISHED 1949



### My Uncle used to say,

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England.

It is not known for sure how it got the name Oakham, but it is likely that settlers from England named it Oakham after Oakham, England the previous home of several settlers. In England, Oakham was a shire town within the county of Rutland.

In 1832, the Craig and Gault families settled in the area that would later be called Coldbrook Springs. Three years later residents erected a church. One of the prominent families, the Parkers, op-

erated a store and saw mill.

The station was located south of the village. The 1938 hurricane severely damaged the bed and tracks; they were never repaired.

During the 1920s, two inns, a Red Men's Hall, a powder factory and two filling stations operated in Coldbrook Springs. From 1832 to 1931, Coldbrook Springs had its own post office.

The Metropolitan District Commission, now the Department of Conservation and Recreation, took over the vil-

ESTABLISHED 1956

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Mon.-Fri.: 8:30-8, Sat.: 8:30-6, Sun.: 8:30-2

ESTABLISHED 1980

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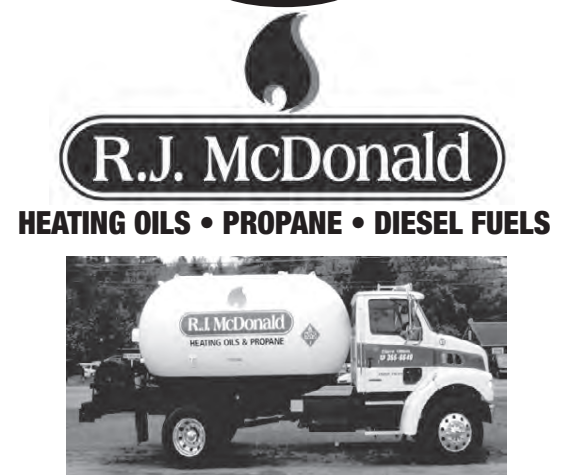
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# ESTABLISHED EDITION

A SALUTE TO OUR BUSINESSES FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



Photo Courtesy of Oakham Historical Association  
The Park View Inn overlooking Oakham Common burned in 1907.



Socony Garage on Broad Street was next to the First Parish Unitarian Church in Barre.

Photo Courtesy of Barre Historical Society

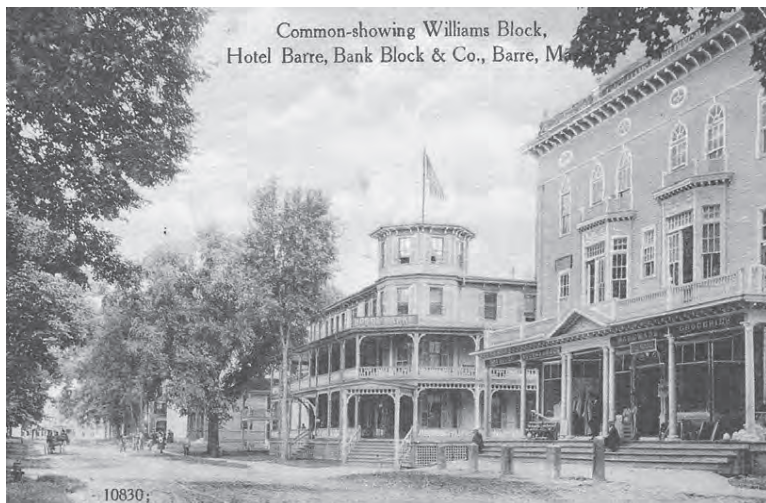


Photo Courtesy of Barre Historical Society  
The Williams Block located on Barre Common contained the Hotel Barre and the Bank Block & Co., right.

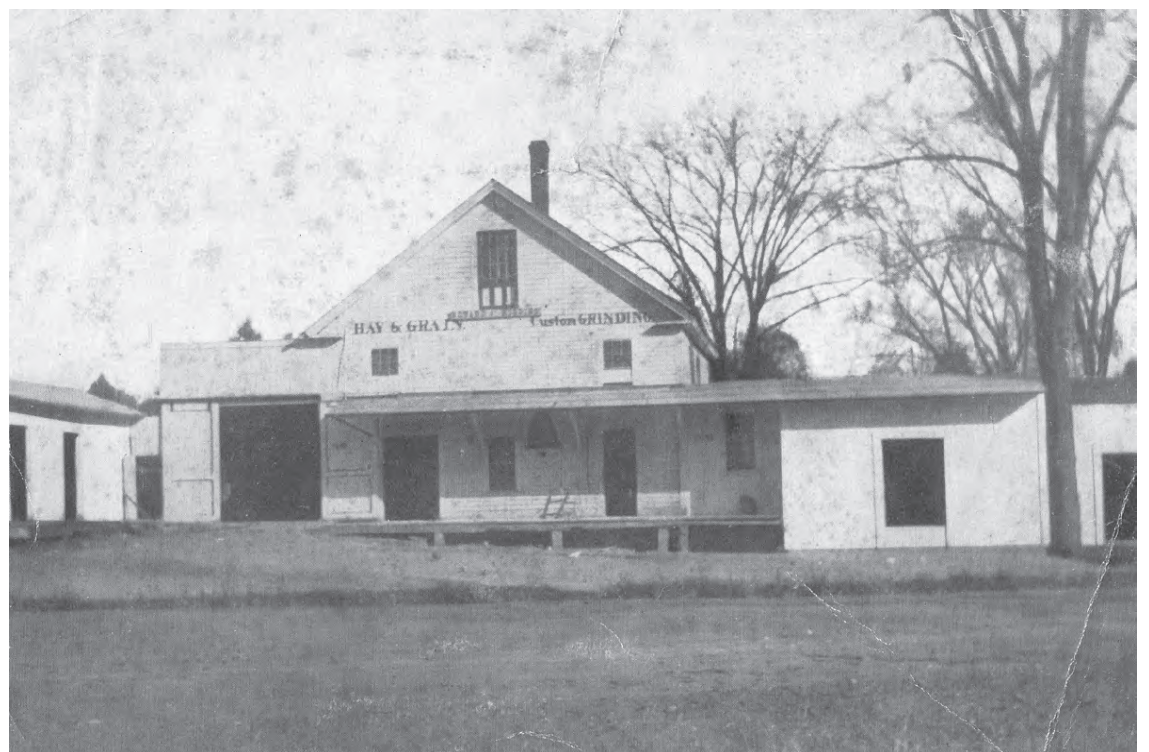


Photo Courtesy of Barre Historical Society  
This gristmill in Barre did custom grinding and sold hay and grain.

ESTABLISHED  
1983

The life of any small local family run business is a long arduous uphill battle filled with growing pains, uncertainty and change. We here at Dave's Appliance have been serving the community and their home appliance needs for the past 48 years in an era of rapidly changing industries and technologies. The business was first founded by Dave and Patricia Caron along with their three sons, Dave Jr., Rick and John in an attached barn area off their family home. In its infancy, Dave's sold mostly antiques and furniture and perhaps a refrigerator or two, but by the mid 1990's the townspeople knew us as Dave's Maytag. Our local "Maytag men" specialized in the retail and home repair of Maytag products. By the end of the twentieth century, our founder Dave had passed away, big box stores were moving in, and Maytag was bought out by Whirlpool.

Patricia, Rick and John dug their heels into the dirt, joined a buying group with more retail power and built a new larger 7000 square foot facility next door, a location where they have operated comfortably for the past ten years.

A new type of change has come to Dave's as of January 1, 2017 and that is the retirement of Pat. We would like to thank Pat for her many decades of dedication to the business and surrounding community. We would also like to thank the local townspeople for their continued support and business over the past 40 years. The torch has finally been passed to new co-owners Rick and John Caron, who along with the third generation of the Caron family will continue to aid the local community with the sales of new and reconditioned appliances, as well as supplying in-shop and in-home appliance repairs.



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and their son Dave.



Dave, Rick and John Caron, 1983.

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# ESTABLISHED EDITION

A SALUTE TO OUR BUSINESSES FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY





This is a view of West Street in Barre before the roads were paved.

Photo Courtesy of Barre Historical Society



The Dalai Lama of Tibet visited Insight Meditation Society, Pleasant Street, Barre in October 1979.

ESTABLISHED 2001

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If you are thinking of selling or buying, it pays to work with someone local that supports the community and is familiar and knowledgeable with the area market.

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7 Exchange Street, Barre

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Turley Publications File Photo  
 Town Farm in Barre is shown in this November 1954 photo.

ESTABLISHED 2014

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Photo Courtesy of Barre Historical Society  
 Horse drawn carriages and people travel along Exchange Street in front of the Simonds Block.

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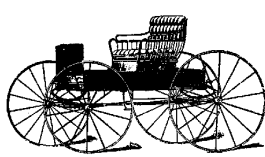
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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised  
herein is subject to the Federal Fair  
Housing Act, which makes it illegal to  
advertise "any preference, limitation,  
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or, religion, sex, handicap, familial sta-  
tus, or national origin, or intention to  
make any such preference, limitation,  
or discrimination." We will not know-  
ingly accept any advertising for real es-  
tate which is in violation of the law. All  
persons are hereby informed that all  
dwellings advertised are available on  
an equal opportunity basis.

## REAL ESTATE

### STORAGE

**SECURE STORAGE** Winter Spe-  
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**Classified Advertising  
DEADLINES**  
QUABBIN & SUBURBAN  
FRIDAY AT NOON  
HILLTOWNS  
MONDAY AT NOON

## FOR RENT



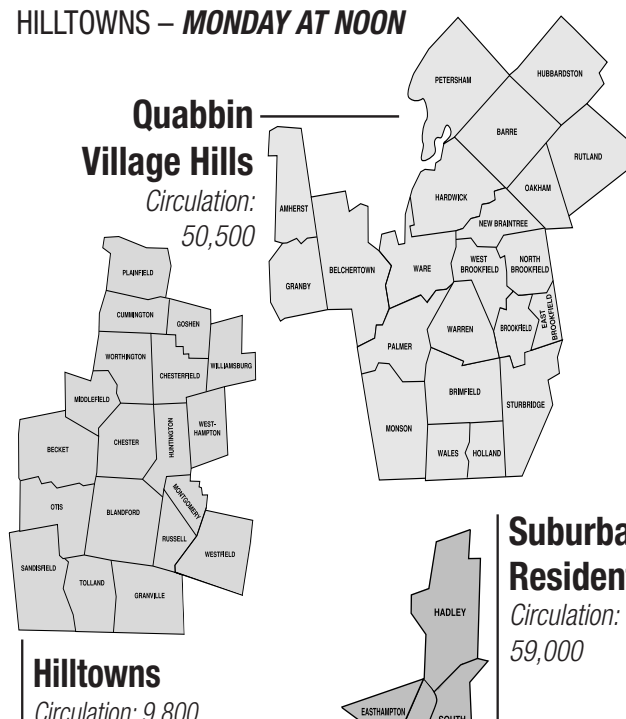
All real estate advertising in this  
newspaper is subject to the Federal  
Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes  
it illegal to advertise any preference,  
limitation or discrimination based on  
race, color, religion, sex, handicap,  
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or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry,  
age, marital status, or any intention to  
make any such preference, limitation or  
discrimination.  
This newspaper will not knowingly accept  
any advertising for real estate that is in  
violation of the law. Our readers are hereby  
informed that all dwellings advertising in  
this newspaper are available on an equal  
opportunity basis. To complain about  
discrimination call The Department of  
Housing and Urban Development "HUD"  
toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E.  
area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll  
free number for the hearing impaired is  
1-800-927-9275.

# FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

**MAIL TO:** Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call: 413-283-8393

**DEADLINES:** QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – **FRIDAY AT NOON**  
HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00



Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or  
the Suburban Residential ZONE  
for \$26.00 for 20 words plus  
50¢ for each additional word.  
Add \$10 for a second Zone  
or add \$15 to run in  
**ALL THREE ZONES.**

First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words  
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**  
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**  
Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):

☐ Quabbin  
☐ Suburban  
☐ Hilltowns

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**



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P	I	L	A	F		A	C	E		H	A	L	E
C	A	U	S	E	S	G	O	N		A	F	A	R
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T	O	D	Y			D	Y	N			S	A	K